

# HOW TO USE THE INTERNET

## RELIABLY USING GOOGLE SOURCES

### EVERYONE GETS TO SPEAK ON THE INTERNET...EVEN IF THEY'RE WRONG

Just because it's on the internet doesn't mean it's true. JFK was not secretly a space alien. Mussolini did not make the trains run on time. Don't let yourself get tricked. Here are some things to keep in mind when you're looking at an online source:

#### 1 AUTHOR



- Who wrote the article?
- What is their background?
- Are they experts on the topic?
- Is their contact information available on the page?
- Are there any links to a homepage?
- Does the homepage link to a personal site, or an organization's site?
- Does the article try to promote the organization the page links to?

#### 2 PURPOSE

What is the reason the author is writing the article?

Who is the intended audience for this article? Academics, experts in the field, or the general public?

If unclear, is the article trying to inform and educate on a topic, promote an idea, or sell a product?



#### 3 OBJECTIVITY



Is the article presenting facts or opinions?



Is the article written to get an emotional response from readers?



Does it seem like the article is biased due to the authors connection to an organization?

#### 4 ACCURACY AND CREDIBILITY



Does the author list their sources?

Can any of the article's claims be verified from independent sources?

Is the article free of spelling or grammar errors?



Why should anyone believe this article?

Is the information well researched, or is it unsupported by evidence?

What institution (university, government, company) supports this information?

Have you ever heard of this institution?

#### 5 REMEMBER



- Be critical of any information you find on the internet
- Always question who is writing the article
- Check sources
- If in doubt, ask a librarian!

#### SOURCE

Special thanks to the Georgetown University Library for the information used in this infographic. For more information, visit:

<http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/evaluating-internet-content>