

Identifying High-Quality Sites

*** DID YOU KNOW ...**

The word “gullible” is used to describe people who believe everything they’re told. A popular joke about being gullible is to say to someone, “Hey, look! ‘Gullible’ is written on the ceiling.” If he or she looks up at the ceiling, it’s considered an example of being gullible!

Word Search

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e e e a t r i o t n y
e a t p u b l i s h h
s i a a r i o m t n e
e m u a r r r r m r s
e a l s r i o i e u k
m g a a e w o w a f s
e e v a t i o t t v a
u r e s h r o t n o h
e y u r k p l a l r l
w r g n i m a l f n l
t a g w r e r t a s l
    
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*** WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Why should you be careful to evaluate websites before using their information in research projects?

*** DO YOU REMEMBER ...**
How you can know whether to trust the information you find on a website?

1. Family Activity

Which two U.S. states have the largest populations? Which two U.S. states are the best to live in? Imagine you wanted to find the answers to the two above questions and you needed to back up your response with evidence and citations. The first question has a factual answer. The second question will require you to make some decisions about what you think makes a place “the best” to live in. What kinds of sources do you think would be high-quality, valid sources to cite in crafting your response to each question? Are there any sources you would NOT trust? Ask a family member or friend to guess which states have the largest populations, and then see if you can find the answer together! Use what you know about identifying high-quality sources to decide which resources to trust. Next, decide which states you think would be best to live in and see if you can find at least three facts to support your decisions.

2. Tech It Up!

Perform your search for the largest two states online and review the top five search results that you find. Make a table with three columns: “seems trustworthy,” “doesn’t seem trustworthy,” and “not sure”. Before you click on any of sites, put a check in the correct column. Then, follow the link and, with your family member or friend, use the information you find on the website to determine whether or not you think you were correct about its trustworthiness.

3. Common Sense Says ...

Keep in mind the following criteria as you try to determine whether or not a site is trustworthy: - Is the site opinion or fact? - Does the site have a clearly identified author? - Are sources given for the statistics? - Can you tell the difference between ads and main content on the site? - Is the site a .edu, .gov, .net, or .org site?

