Reliable Sources for Research Writing
The Easiest Way is not the Best Way

Do not use the top Google search results:

❖ Yahoo Answers
❖ Ask.com
❖ Wiki Answers
❖ Web MD

Be careful when using Wikipedia!
Evaluating a Website Checklist

- Credibility
- Accuracy
- Bias
- Relevance
Credibility

- Is the author stated?
- What are the author’s credentials?
- Can they be trusted?
- Is it peer reviewed?
- Is it from a credible institution?
Accuracy

- Does the website provide accurate information?
- Is there clear proof and research to back up the information?
- Are there any citations?
- Do any other websites have the same facts?
Bias

- Is the author trying to steer you in a certain direction?
- Is their argument and research only showing one side of an issue?
- Is there more commentary than fact?
Relevance

- How recent is the information?
- Does the information really add to your paper?
- Does the information support your research?
True or false?

It is okay to cite Wikipedia in your scholarly essays.
Websites to be cautious of...
Advocacy Websites

- Promote policies, actions, and campaigns
- Often can be biased
- URLs end in .org
- Non-profit websites
Commercial Websites

- Owned by a business or corporation
- Purpose is to sell goods and services
- URLs end in .com
Blogs and Personal Websites

- Can have information on everything and anything
- Can often be very opinionated
- Every blog will be different.
- These websites are only as credible as their author!
Satirical Websites

- “News” sites
- Sometimes have believable headlines
So what are the best websites to use?
Scholarly Websites

- Have the most detail
- Includes online databases, journals, and articles
- Show extensive research
- Have documentation of resources
- URLs end in .edu, .gov, and sometimes .org
Assessing Scholarly Websites and Articles

- Studies use “n = #” to show how many people participated in study.
- The larger the number, the better the information is.
What are examples of websites to never cite?

Wikipedia   ask.com   Yahoo Answers   petco.com   modcloth.com

Which should be used with caution?

peta.org   aspca.org   change.org   wordpress.com

What are examples of good websites to use?

Fws.gov   habitat.noaa.gov   schoolcraft.edu
Search Tips & Tricks

- “Add quotes around a group of words in a search engine.”
  Results will only show the exact phrase.

- PDF: Domesticated animals
  If you type the file type: before your search, the results will only show that type of file.

- Saving to your library (Google Scholar)
  Click “save” underneath an article’s link to easily access it later.

- Change the range
  Type the year or move the slider to limit your searches to the date of publication.
Google Scholar

- Will not give you the top google search results
- Has peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed sources
- Shows how many people have cited a source
- Shows related articles and websites
- Will cite your work for you
- You can save your searches if you are using a Google account
How to sign-up

1. Log into WebAdvisor
2. Go to the student menu under resources
3. Click on NBC Learn and follow directions to sign up

- Thousands of video clips
- 40 different subjects
- Transcripts
- A different kind of reference
Ebsco Discovery Service

Resources ➔ Library ➔ Magazines & Journals

❖ Peer reviewed articles
❖ Extensive research
❖ Customizable searches
❖ Free, full text, and journals
Schoolcraft as a resource

Username: schoolcr33
Password: bradkliff

Ask a librarian if you have questions or need help! They are experts!
