

Currency	Reliability
<p>The information on the website should be current, especially if your topic needs recent information. You should always check for a date to see when the site was created or updated. Older topics may allow older information, but you should still check for the most recent.</p>	<p>The information on the website should be accurate and complete. It should offer more facts than opinions and all information should be balanced (both sides of the issue). There should be reference sources and data to support the information. Avoid blogs and posts when conducting research.</p>
Authority	Purpose
<p>You should check of the name of an author and look for credentials that make him or her an expert on the subject. You should also check to see who published or sponsored the site and determine if that group or company is trustworthy. Companies profit from the use of their website and may not provide accurate information.</p>	<p>You should determine why the website was created. Some sites simply want to sell products. Check the domain: <i>.gov</i> and <i>.edu</i> sites are usually trustworthy; <i>.com</i>, <i>.net</i>, and <i>.org</i> sites may not be. Check for ads on the page. Avoid sites that require you to click to the next page after reading only a small amount of information.</p>
Suitability	
<p>You need to choose sources with information you understand so that you can use it effectively in the essay.</p>	

Credible Sources	Non-Credible Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Websites of government or education institutes. -Websites from trusted companies (major newspapers/magazines, etc.). -Websites with information published within the past 5 years. -Journals published by experts or authors with reference sources and data. -Websites with much information. It is clear who the author and publisher are and the site's purpose is clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facebook posts, Tweets, Instagram posts, etc. -Blogs, comment sections, or forums. -Websites with information published over 10 years ago. -Websites with information without reference sources. -Websites with little information available. It is not clear who the author and publisher are and the purpose of the site is not clear or is in question.
Primary Sources	Secondary Sources
<p>A document or other information source created during the time period you are study. This is first-hand evidence.</p> <p>Examples: Letters, newspaper articles, autobiographies, diaries, photographs, speeches.</p>	<p>A document or other information source that analyzes and interprets primary sources.</p> <p>Examples: books, encyclopedias, textbooks, documentaries, literary critiques, research articles.</p>

Adapted for use from

Beestrup, Molly. CCCOnline Library. Colorado Community College. ccconline.libguides.com/c.php?g=242130&p=2185475. Accessed October 12, 2017.

“Credible Versus Non-Credible Sources” *University Writing Center*. Appalachian State University. 2013. <https://writingcenter.appstate.edu/sites/writingcenter.appstate.edu/files/Credible%20v%20Non-Credible%20Sources13.pdf>. Accessed October 12, 2017.

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