

# Touchstone 4. Project Work

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Credibility of resources.  
Using facts, opinion and  
arguments. Critical  
thinking.

# What is credibility of a resource?

A+R+S = authentic + reliable + supported by  
evidence

***How reliable is information on the  
Internet? How do I check sources and their  
credibility?***

\*Author's name

\*\* Title or position

\*\*\* Organizational affiliation

\*\*\*\* Date the page was created or last updated

\*\*\*\*\* Contact information (i.e., email)

# Where do we look?

- \*\* About us
- \*\*\* Contact information
- \*\*\*\* Bottom of page, with Webmaster info and copyright
- \*\*\*\*\* Headers, footers, HTML code (right-click, view source)

## Domain names

<.edu>   <.gov>   <.mil>   <.org>   <.com>

# Red Flags

1. Sources are not clearly cited
2. Anonymous authors
3. Multiple misspellings and typos, bad grammar
4. Poorly presented information
5. Site is out of date// No updates
6. Too many ads
7. One-sided view
8. Generalization
9. Very emotional language

# Practice 1

- <http://www.foodsafety.gov/>
- <http://borisakunin.livejournal.com/>
- [http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/iss/int1\\_student\\_scholar\\_serv.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ipg/iss/int1_student_scholar_serv.html)
- <http://www.neta.com/~1stbooks/>

# Practice 2

Identify 'red flags'

<http://www.okpri.com/WhatIsAGhost&DoTheyReallyExist.htm>

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Do-Ghosts-Really-Exist?-How-One-Woman-Found-Definitive-Proof&id=1358287>

# Using Facts, Opinions and Arguments

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**OPINIONS:** beliefs, not always based on good evidence, even if most people agree.

**FACTS:** can be checked against evidence, used in academic writing.

**ARGUMENTS:** reasons (which can include fact), support a point of view.

# Opinion? Fact?

## Argument?

- I think there should be fewer adverts on TV.
- There were an average of 35 adverts an hour on channel X, on 25th July 2007.
- Adverts for toys should not be shown on TV because research by Dr Meehan (2008) suggests that they...



# Critical Analytical Thinking

**Critical thinking:** weighting up arguments and evidence *for* and *against*.

## **Project Work Tips:**

- Be clear about your conclusions
- Have a clear line of reasoning
- Use evidence to support your reasoning
- Evaluate your written speech through critical reading
- Take multiple perspectives

# Task

- ✓ Divide in groups.
- ✓ Decide on the topic within ‘Socialization’ theme. Your topic should be based on a problem.
- ✓ Develop your project plan.
- ✓ Prepare a draft presentation by the next class.
- ✓ Remember to:
  - check credibility of resources
  - Use not just opinions but facts and arguments
  - Involve your critical thinking.

# Presentation requirements

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- max 10 slides
- a 10-minute presentation
- reference page (5 online sources, at least 1 academic)

# Adapted from:

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The Study Skills Handbook, 3rd  
Edition, Stella Cottrell.  
Palgrave Macmillan, New York,  
2010