

Touchstone 4. Project Work

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 Site is out of date// No updates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.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

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

Adapted from:

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