**Credible Sources on the Internet**

What does **CREDIBLE** mean?

*convincing, able to be believed*

How do you **determine** if an Internet source is **credible**?

*Ask WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?*

**WHO** – Who is the author?

* If there is an “about” page, read it.
  + Is this person or organization an expert in their field?
  + What is their educational background?

**WHAT** – What kind of information is provided and how high is its quality?

* If the site provides a deep knowledge of your topic with references to studies and statistics, it is probably high quality.
* If the site provides only general facts, you should find better, more detailed information elsewhere.

**WHERE** – Where is this site on the web? What is the web address?

**.com** – hosted by a **com**pany, often a site for profit, advertisements on websites suggest the information will be biased, though online magazines are often .com sites. Be careful and explore further.

**.org** – hosted by a non-profit **org**anization, reliable information depending on the background and mission of the organization. Be careful and explore further.

**.edu** – hosted by an **edu**cational institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**.gov** – hosted by a government institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**WHEN** – When was it published? Is this the most up to date information?

**WHY** – What is the author, organization, or company’s goal in publishing this information?

* Is the goal to
  + Provide excellent information to the public? – Great!
  + Persuade the audience of an argument or opinion? – Be careful!
  + Sell the readers a product? – Move on fast!

**Website Credibility Activity**

**Directions:**

* Mark each website below as **C** for *credible* for **NC** for *not credible*, then give your reason for this determination.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **C/NC** | **Website** | **Reason** |
|  | Facts Against School Uniforms  <http://education.newarchaeology.com/against_school_uniforms.php> |  |
|  | The First Amendment Center  <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/clothing-dress-codes-uniforms> |  |
|  | “Plaid’s Out, Again, As Schools Give Up Requiring Uniforms” – *NY Times*  <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/13/education/13UNIF.html?ex=1146024000&en=2224e72b52502702&ei=5070> |  |
|  | French Toast.com  <http://www.frenchtoast.com/category/school+info/more+about+school+uniforms/why+school+uniforms.do> |  |
|  | School Outfitters Blog  <http://blog.schooloutfitters.com/2011/11/shool-uniforms-mandatory/> |  |
|  | United States Department of Education  <http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSDFS/actguid/uniforms.html> |  |
|  | Public Broadcasting System (PBS)  <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/infocus/fashion/school.html> |  |
|  | Buzzle.com  <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/school-uniforms-debate.html> |  |

Explain what difficulties and questions came up as you looked at these sites. What were you unsure about in terms of credibility?