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Finding Credible Sources

The saying "don't believe everything you read on the internet" exists for a reason, especially today when anyone can upload whatever information they want onto the internet.

When you are writing a text that requires research, such as an essay or a newspaper article, it is important that you find credible sources. Credible means to be believable and trustworthy. If you are writing a text that requires facts, you need those facts to be correct, otherwise your entire written piece will be worthless. Here are five things you should consider when you look for credible sources online:

1 **Check the author**

The author should have their name attached somewhere to their work. If they don't, there is a risk that they won't stand behind what they have said, and if they can't, why should anyone else? You can also do a quick Google search of their name and see if any information about them comes up.

2 **Check the date**

Look to see when the article was published. In our extremely fast-moving world, many articles and theories quickly go out of date. So, before citing one, make sure that it is still relevant today.

3 **Check the sources**

Websites, books, and articles that claim to be credible should also have their own sources from which their information came from.

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4 **Check the domain name**

The domain name is the name of the website. Look to see which ending the domain has. Common endings are .com, .net, .org, and .se, which can all be bought by anyone. Sometimes, the problem with these websites is that they are for commercial use (to make money), and the information that is on them can be biased. Instead, look for websites that end in .edu (only for colleges and universities) and .gov (for government use), as they tend to be more credible.

5 **Check for professionalism**

This isn't always the case, but typically a well-designed website indicates that it is more credible, as someone has invested time and money into it. Also, inspect the quality of the writing on the website. If there are spelling and grammar mistakes and the text is poorly put together, chances are it is less credible.

The same goes for your work. The more mistakes you have, the less credible and professional it seems.

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