

IS THIS SITE CREDIBLE?

Credible = reliable, believable, trustworthy

1. Is it on topic? Does it actually address what you are looking for?
2. Is it current, and does that matter?
3. Is the author an expert on this topic? How do you know?
4. Consider the author's purpose or goal in writing the piece. Is their goal simply to inform you of the issues? (They may have a hidden agenda or ulterior motive, such as to promote, sell, entertain, or persuade)
5. Does the article use credible sources AND cite (reference) its sources?
6. Is the website mainstream or well-known? Is it well-established, meaning it's been around for a while?
7. Does it match other websites, or what you know to be true about this topic?

Also consider...

8. Blogs can be credible if the author is an expert and/or if the sources are cited and credible.
9. The domain name (.com, .gov, etc.). This may or may not be an important factor.
10. If it is news:
 - a. Remember that news companies **MUST** print the facts - it is illegal for them to knowingly print something false.
 - b. **BUT** news companies also want to entertain. They may embellish, add opinions or 'spin' the story.
 - c. Some articles are editorials. This is someone's opinion, not an official report.