

Credible vs. **Incredible** Online Sources

Expository Reading & Writing Unit
Grade 8 Week 6

-cred-

Latin root word
means “to believe”

So if something is **credible**, then it's **believable**.
We can **believe** it and **trust** it.

-in-

Latin root word
means “not”

**Something incredible is not believable.
We can't believe it or trust it.**

So here's the thing...

There's a lot of information out there online that we can use to research a topic or to learn more about something we're curious about.

Just because it's on a nice-looking website doesn't mean it's "credible" information, though.

**Why are books
considered credible and
online stuff isn't always
considered credible?**

Let's think about this for a second.

Turn and talk with a partner or small group about the difference between how a book gets published and how something online gets there.

Why books are usually considered to be credible sources of information -

Books usually have to go through an official publishing process with editors and all kinds of other people involved. It's pretty tough to publish a book and if the facts or information is wrong, then the author won't sell many of them. Even before you read a book, you can go to a website like [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and read reviews and other information about it first to see if it's a good source. Plus, you can find out about who the author is and what makes the author qualified to write about the topic.

Why online info can be considered NOT credible sources of information -

Anyone can write anything he or she wants to write online (almost). Anyone can make themselves seem like an “expert” and there’s not really any way to check and see if that person is truly qualified to write about that topic. Many people online write excellent articles and provide awesome information and over time, they prove themselves to be credible sources. It takes time, though, so it’s not as clear-cut as book authors.

**Let's be realistic.
In today's times, we're
going to get most of our
information online.**

*So let's learn about the best tricks
we can use to make sure that what
we read online is coming from a
trustworthy, credible source!*

Read the statements or
examples on the next
few slides.

If you think it represents a **CREDIBLE**
online source, stand up!

If you think it represents an **INCREDIBLE**
(non-trustworthy) online source, sit down!

Some will be pretty obvious, but others might be a little tricky because whether the source is credible or not may depend on what type of information you're looking for.

When you're done with all 7 of them, you'll have a chance to actually talk about your reasons with your small groups / partners!

#1

You read an article about the flu written by a doctor. You clicked on a link that explains where the doctor earned his medical degree, where he currently works, and you can also see all the new projects he's working on. The date of his article is from just a few months ago and it looks like he adds new articles each month.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#2

You love race cars. You find a website all about race cars, and there are amazing photographs. Then you notice that there's nothing current on the website. In fact, the date at the bottom says 2003 and the last article was written in 2005.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#3

You read an article on
a website that your
teacher said has good
information.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#4

You read an article on a blog that some guy named Uncle Pajama wrote. Lots of words are misspelled and he has funny pictures, but you're not sure if he really knows what he's talking about because what he's saying doesn't actually make sense.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#5

You read an article on a blog that some guy wrote. It's about all the countries he's visited. You've never heard of this guy, but he has lots of pictures to back up what he's saying and with each new article you read, you learn more about some of the places he's been to. When you look at other websites about those countries, it seems like his articles are true and accurate.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#6

You don't like Apple or iPhones, so you decide to learn about other types of smartphones. You find a great-looking website with easy-to-read information. The date at the bottom is current. Then you notice that all the pictures and images on the website are of "flip phones" that look like they're from several years ago. You also see that the word "APP" is barely mentioned.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up

INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

#7

You're hoping to read online about reasons that students should get to start school later each day. You find a nice-looking website that looks up-to-date and the information is interesting. As you read, you realize that all the articles are about why students shouldn't start school later each day.

CREDIBLE SOURCE: stand up
INCREDIBLE SOURCE: sit down

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Now, you get to work with your partner or a small group to analyze exactly what is **credible** or **incredible** about each scenario.