Discussion Points
on
Credible vs. Non-Credible Online Sources
Read and discuss the scenarios below and decide what exactly makes each one credible or non-credible.

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.	What makes this article seem relevant? How can you tell that the author is an authority on the topic?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?
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.	How would the currency and accuracy on a website like this effect how relevant the articles are?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?
You read an article on a website that your teacher said has good information.	Is your teacher a person of authority who would likely suggest a helpful website? Would your teacher probably be accurate in helping you find a useful source online?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?

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.	Does this author seem like he has a clear purpose for creating a website like this? Does it seem like the information will be accurate on this website?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?
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.	Even if the author is basically unknown, what makes it seem like he could be an authority on the subject you're researching? How current would the information need to be in order to be relevant to you?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?
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.	What happens to the relevance of the information on a website if the articles and images do not seem to be current?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?
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.	How might a writer's personal bias towards a topic effect his or her authority to write about it?	Explain if this is most likely a credible online source or an incredible (non-credible) online source?

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