



# SIPS

## Safe Internet Practices in School

April 2008 - Internet Credibility

Today most people turn to the World Wide Web to gather information relating to their jobs, hobbies, travel, interests etc. Lots of valuable and accurate information is posted on the Internet daily, but how do you filter through the plethora of information and use only what is credible? Finding credible internet sites can be a bit tricky since anybody can create and publish a web page. Even the most appealing and well organized site can be filled with inaccurate or biased information. You must develop the skills necessary to evaluate and interpret that you find. This month we will focus on how to recognize credible sites.

### Tips to finding a credible website:

- Who is the author of the web page and is their contact information on the site?
- When was the website created and has it been updated recently?
- Are facts cited so that you can track down the original resource?
- Are the links on the website active and credible?
- Is the site a personal web page containing biases?
- Was the page created to convince, sell, inform, entertain etc.?

### What is a domain and what does it mean?

Government sites: .gov, .mil and .us

Educational sites: .edu

Nonprofit organizations: .org

Commercial Business: .com

Network Organizations: .net

### Where can this topic be integrated?

**English SOLs:** 4.6, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 8.6, 9.3, 9.4, 11.2, 12.7

**SCI SOLs:** 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 6.9, PS.1, ES.1, BIO.1, CH.1, PH.1

**Social Studies SOLs:** CE.7 WHI.1, WG.7, VUS.1, GOVT.9, GOVT.11

### COFFEE TALK

Can you talk the talk? Here are a few examples of current chat lingo:

**URL:** Uniform Resource Locator. This is the unique web address of any document on the Internet.

**Link "Rot":** Links which are no longer active or available.

**Blog:** Short for web log. This is basically an individual's on-line personal journal. It can be filled with text, pictures and biases! Be aware of information found on these pages.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### Roanoke County Internet Safety Resource

<http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/isafety/default.shtml>

#### Johns Hopkins University

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/>

#### UC Berkeley

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

#### Evaluating Internet Safety

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/critical.html#complementary>