

# THE CREDIBILITY FACTOR

## Examples of sources that are often the most credible:

- Official government websites
- Institutional sites that represent universities, regulatory agencies, governing bodies, and
- Respected organizations with specific expertise (e.g., the Mayo Clinic)
- Peer-reviewed journals
- Reputable news sources

## Examples of sources that are often considered less credible:

- Blogs
- Web forums
- Individual or business websites
- Materials published by an entity that may have an ulterior motive

*Check your source before you cite it!*

Factors to consider	Least reliable	Possibly reliable	Most reliable
TYPE OF SOURCE	Unfamiliar website	Published material	Official websites, institutional sites, academic journals
AUTHOR'S BACKGROUND	Uncredited	Educated on topic	Expert in the field
DATE PUBLISHED	None	Outdated	Recently revised
DEPTH OF REVIEW	Controversial reviews	Good public response; general approval	Peer-reviewed by reliable sources
SOURCES CITED	None	Credible sources	Citations referencing other well-cited works
OBJECTIVITY	Clearly biased	Sponsored source	Balanced, neutral