# Analyzing Safe/Credible Internet Sources

## Essential Questions when analyzing digital sources:

- 1. Who published the webpage?
- 2. Is there a website title?
- 3. What is the quality of information?
- 4. What is the purpose of the webpage?

#### Don't Ignore the Domain Suffix!!

Ever wonder what the letters at the end of a web address mean? They help identify which type of individual or organization host the website.

.com = commercial

.edu = educational

.gov = government

.org = non-profit

.mil = military

#### Is There a Website Title/Author?

**Look** for a clear **title** of the webpage. It should be located somewhere towards the top of the webpage in bold/large print and easy to identify.

**Look** for an author at the top, bottom, or sidebar of the page.

- \*A corporate author may be used instead of a single person
- \*When an author is not provided, this could be a red flag. Trusting information from a source without an author is tricky and should be avoided if possible.
- \*Can you trust the author? Google him/her/them and find out more about that person/group.

#### What is the Quality of Information?

Is the information current?

- When was the source first published?
- ☐ Has the source been updated recently?
- Check the bottom of the webpage for dates

(Publication dates matter most if you are researching current events, statistics, or topics within the science/medical field. Publication dates are not as important if you are researching that does not/has not changed over time)

#### What is the Quality of Information?

Does the author cite his/her sources?

Just like printed materials, website that provide citations of the sources used for information, makes the webpage more reliable.

Citations provide evidence that the author has done research before sharing the information on the webpage.

#### What is the Purpose of the Webpage?

Why did the author create the webpage?

- ☐ To sell a product
- ☐ As a public service
- ☐ As a hobby
- To inform
- ☐ To persuade

When doing research, try to stick with pages that have the purpose to inform. This will help you avoid biased sources.

Avoid pages with clusters of advertisements and those that do not look professionally created.

#### **Example Digital Source Analyzation**

#### https://www.gcsd9.net

- 1. Who published this webpage?
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#### **Example Digital Source Analyzation**

https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2018/11/19/461147/refugees-thrive-america/

- 1. Who published this webpage?
- 2. Is there a webpage title/author?
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#### Your Turn to Try!

Use the handout to follow the steps we have just practiced together to analyze **2** of the following sources for credibility.

https://www.edglossary.org/achievement-gap/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legality\_of\_cannabis

https://www.cdc.gov/features/school-start-times/index.html

## Cyberbullying

#### What is cyberbullying?

\*Cyberbullying is the act of using any type of electronic communication to send threatening or intimidating messages to another person.

#### Examples:

- -text messaging
- -social media posts
- -social media messaging
- -computer instant messaging

#### **Effects of Cyberbullying**

- \*Depending on the person, they may interpret a message sent to them in a variety of ways.
- \*Cyberbullying can cause some students to become depressed, to shut down in school, or even to have threats of suicide.
- \*Cyberbullying can cause other students to become physically aggressive and result to acts of physical violence.
- \*Cyberbullying can cause a negative school climate to develop which leads to a negative atmosphere for all.

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#### **Preventing Cyberbullying**

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#### **Classroom Discussion**

Turn to your shoulder partner and take the next 10 minutes to discuss the following statements:

- 1. Cyberbullying affects more than just the targeted individual.
- 2. Cyberbullying can lead to a hostile school climate.
- 3. Some people do not understand the power of their words.
- 4. Threats through electronic communication should always be taken seriously.

#### **Video**

#### https://youtu.be/dubA2vhllrg

After watching the video, write your answers on a sheet of paper to share with a circle group discussion.

- 1. How did the cyberbullying start in the first place?
- 2. Why did Joe resist telling adults what was happening to him?
- 3. If you were on the bus with Joe, what could you have done?
- 4. Why were the police called to the school at the end.

#### **Student Resources**

What can you do if you or someone you know is a victim of cyberbullying?

- 1. Document what is happening (take screenshots, photos of what is being sent to you, etc).
- 2. Inform your parents/guardians at home.
- 3. Inform a trusted adult at school (teacher, counselor, principal).
- 4. Do not blame yourself for what other people are choosing to do/say.

## Malware & Internet Threats

#### What are Malware & Internet Threats

\*Malware is software that can get into your computer through various methods and corrupt files, steal data, and track actions on the internet.

Examples of malware:

\*spyware

\*Trojan virus

\*virus

\*adware

\*worm

#### **How to Tell if You Have Malware**

- \*your computer slows down/operating system speed is reduced
- \*annoying advertisements pop up all over your screen
- \*browser windows pop open on their own
- \*your computer frequently freezes or crashes out of nowhere
- \*mysterious loss of disk/drive space
- \*suspicious increase in internet activity

#### How Malware Gets on Your Computer

- \*opening emails from non-known senders
- \*downloading infected music files
- \*clicking on ads on non-trustworthy websites
- \*installing toolbars from un-familiar providers

#### How to Remove/Avoid Malware

- \*update your Malware/Anti-Virus program regularly and scan your system on a regular basis.
- \*do not open emails/email attachments from un-familiar senders.
- \*avoid using non-credible websites and clicking on any pop-ups and advertisements on those websites.
- \*be cautious about which toolbars and other software you choose to download.

#### Digital Citizenship

Day ONE

Digital Citizenship

https://d1pmarobgdhgjx.cloudfront.net/education/WhatIsDigital Citizenship\_2017.mp4

#### noun

a person who develops the skills and knowledge to effectively use the Internet and other digital technology, especially in order to participate responsibly in social and civic activities:

"We're teaching students how to become good digital citizens."

#### Why is Digital Citizenship Important?

Addressing the 21st century skill of **digital citizenship** is **important** to help you learn, communicate, and collaborate safely and responsibly. Being a positive digital citizen in your community includes having email/text/social media etiquette, reporting and preventing cyber bullying, learning how to protect your private information online, and much more.

#### Civil Discourse Online

People often use the phrase "the power of the internet." What do you think they mean by that? What makes the internet "powerful"? Take 5 minutes to share with a partner.

We are going to watch a short video that features Cameron Kasky, who was a student that survived the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida in 2018. After the shooting, he became an outspoken advocate for gun reform. In the video, he shares experiences using the power of the internet to communicate his message.

As your watching, listen for what he says about online discourse, mistakes he made, and things he wished he could go back and change.

https://www.commonsense.org/education/videos/civil-discourse-online

## Answer these questions on a half sheet and discuss with a neighbor/table partner

- What are some of the big takeaways from Cameron Kasky's story?
- What does Kasky say about debating with people who disagree with you? Do you agree?
- Why is it necessary to think about the possible consequences of everything you post or share on a public media outlet? Private media outlet?

#### Disconnected Discourse

Read the comments posted by Zack and Olivia to Zack's original social media post.

What advice would you give Olivia and Zack about engaging in civil discourse online?

How could this exchange be improved?



Zack

Yes, finally! Too bad for those gas-guzzling SUV drivers LOL



#### New Legislation Proposes to Ban Inefficient Cars



1 Likes

Comments



83

Olivia: It's not SUVs that are hurting

the environment. #rolledeyes #dosomeresearchfirst



Zack: It's not about the research (which I've done). It's about climate change deniers like you. That pollution factory you call a car's gotta go. #sorrynotsorry



**Olivia:** Denier? Nope. I do drive a used SUV becuz it was given to me. I'd happily get rid of it if I could afford a new car. Plus as i said SUVs aren't even the main cause of pollution. Uninformed loudmouths like you aren't helping anything.

Like - Reply



Zack: Excuses, excuses. #tryagain #dontbeselfish

Like - Reply



**Olivia:** Not selfish. If that legislation passed like half my neighborhood would lose their jobs or not be able to get to school. That "solution" actually hurts people. Ignorance is embarrassing.

Like · Reply

#### Not so personal communication....

Many will argue that while increase the ability to communicate with others, technology is damaging our personal relationships and the way we communicate in a personal way..

How many of you have had a text message taken the wrong way? Or an emoji misinterpreted and started an argument?

Had your feelings hurt after reading an abrupt/vague text?

Communicating digitally without face-face interaction can send the wrong message at times and can lead to a myriad of problems.

#### Your Digital Footprint



#### Digital Footprint

Every email, post, photo, comment, like, and click you make online leaves a trail.

- ► Think of it as a string of breadcrumbs of your online activities!
- ► Anything you post has the potential to be online **forever**.

Your <u>digital footprint</u> is anything online that is about you or put online by you

- ► This someone else can add to your footprint! Think before you tag someone in a post or photo!
- ➤ Your footprint is data created through your activities and communication online

#### Digital Footprint

#### How is your footprint used?

- Third party companies will obtain personal info - demographics, religion, and other interests
- Cookies ads targeted specifically for you based on your search activity
- Employers look at your digital footprint and could use things they find when making hiring decisions.
- College admissions departments check your digital footprint, too



#### Digital Footprint

- √ It's growing. Your footprint expands as your information is copied and passed on, making it more searchable and viewable to a large invisible audience.
- √ It's not just up to you. When other people—like your friends, companies, or groups you belong to—track, post, or share information about you, it becomes part of your footprint.
- √ It's permanent. Because it's archived in a variety of ways and passed on by others, it doesn't ever go away.

#### Digital Footprint - Discussion

What do you *think* is in your digital footprint?

Should an employer be allowed to search your digital footprint?

#### Now...

- 1. Log into your computer
- 2. Google yourself! What pops up? Are you okay with the information that is found? Is there something you found that could shed a negative light on you?

#### Digital Citizenship

DAY 2

#### Who's Looking at Your Digital Footprint?

A student who had been accepted into Harvard had their admission rescinded after the administors found some old social media posts.

Video link:

https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/harvard-withdraws-acceptances-social-media-messages-47859006

### Read the article "Harvard Rescinds Admission Offers for Ten Students"

Do you agree with Harvard's decision? Why or why not?

If you were on the Harvard admissions team what would you have done differently?

As a student, does this make you think about what a college or employer could find on your own social media? What can you do to ensure your social media won't hurt you offline?

#### Final Thoughts!!

What has this short study on Digital Citizenship made you think about?

\*Will you try to become a more positive citizen of the digital world?

\*Will you be thoughtful when responding to posts on social media, texts, and other forms of non face-face discourse?

\*Will you encourage your friends to maintain a positive presence on social media and do the same yourself?