

## Get REAL: Validating Information on the Web

**R = READ the URL** (The URL is another term for web address.)

<p><b>Do you recognize the domain name?</b></p> <p>Example: <a href="http://www.yourschool.org">www.yourschool.org</a></p> <p>Domain name: yourschool</p> <p>Extension: .org</p> <p><b>What is the extension in the domain name?</b></p> <p>Common Extensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>k12</b> Schools in the United States</li><li>• <b>edu</b> Educational Organizations (most colleges and universities)</li><li>• <b>com</b> Commercial</li><li>• <b>org</b> Any organization</li><li>• <b>gov</b> United States Government</li><li>• <b>net</b> Network</li><li>• <b>mil</b> United States Military Institutions</li></ul>	<p><b>Are you on a personal page?</b></p> <p>Clues that it's a personal page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You don't recognize the domain name</li><li>• A name (such as cervin)</li><li>• Tilde (~)</li><li>• Percent Sign (%)</li><li>• The words <i>users</i>, <i>people</i>, or <i>members</i></li></ul> <p><b>What happens when you truncate the address?</b></p> <p>Delete everything in the address after the domain.</p> <p>What can you tell about the site from the home page?</p>
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**E = EXAMINE the Content**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the information on the web site useful for your topic?</li><li>• Are additional resources and links provided? Do they work?</li><li>• Is the site current? Do you know when it was last updated?</li><li>• Do you think the information is accurate?</li><li>• Does the information contradict information you have found elsewhere?</li></ul>
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**A = ASK about the Author/Owner**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the author's name provided?</li><li>• Is there a contact person or an address provided?</li><li>• Is there biographical information provided about the author?</li><li>• Does the author seem knowledgeable? Is he/she an expert in the field?</li><li>• What kinds of results do you see when you do a search on the author's name?</li></ul>	<p><b>Resources to identify author/owner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• easyWhois <a href="http://www.easywhois.com">http://www.easywhois.com</a> This site collects information from the internet to track who owns and is responsible for a domain name.</li><li>• The Way Back Machine <a href="http://www.archive.org">http://www.archive.org</a> This site allows you to browse web pages archived from 1996 to recently.</li></ul>
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**L = LOOK at the Links**

<p>When your cursor hovers over a link, the cursor will change from a pointer to a hand and the URL will appear in the bottom left hand corner of the web page.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the URL's of the links?</li><li>• Do the domain names change?</li><li>• What do other sites say about the material on the site?</li></ul>
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