ELA Virtual Learning

11th/Identifying Credible Sources

May 11, 2020
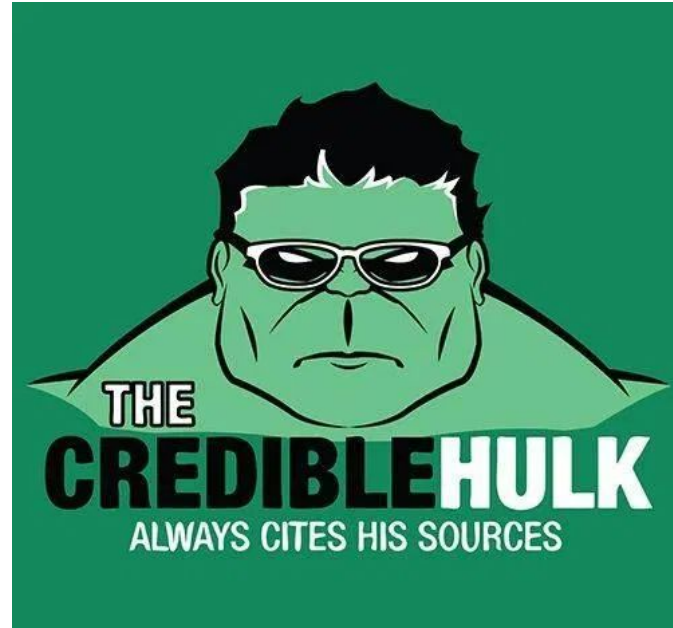
11th/English III
Lesson: May 11, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:
Students will be able to assess a source's credibility

Bell Ringer

Why is it important to use credible sources?

Lesson/Activity

A skill that is important to have is the ability to evaluate a source, especially when research is needed for an assignment.

There are a few things to be sure to pay attention to when assessing whether a source is credible or not.

This video does an incredible job explaining some of the basic things to pay attention to with a source.

Lesson/Activity

These items, along with what was mentioned in the previous video, are the questions you should ask when evaluating whether a source is credible or not:

1. Relevance: The information that the source is providing pertains to your topic. The source is not considered to be outdated as well
2. Accuracy: The information be easily verified through alternative or primary sources.
3. Bias/Perspective: The information presented acknowledges more than one perspective?
4. Reliability: The author/publication of has some kind of expertise via education or work experience. What type of article is it? (Academic, for example)

Lesson/Activity

What the url ends with can also indicate the credibility of a website.

The following are the most common domain endings you'll come across while conducting research:

- .com (commercial): Originally used for commercial purposes, this is now used for almost any kind of website. Anyone can have a .com. Proceed with caution and a critical eye.
- .net (network): Originally meant for network sites, it is often used for many non-network-related information. Anyone can have a .net. Proceed with caution and a critical eye.

Lesson/Activity

- .gov (government): These sites are restricted to government use only. This is not a public domain one can simply purchase. Often an excellent source of statistical data.
- .org (organization): This was intended for organizations and non-profits. However, it has quickly been embraced by the general public. Be aware of the bias of the particular organization. Proceed with caution and a critical eye.
- .edu (education): This is generally used by universities and other formal educational institutions. Many research studies will publish through their associated university.

Practice

Assess whether the following websites are credible. Determine which ones would be suitable to use in a research paper:

Website #1

Website #2

Website #3

Example of a Proficient Answer
(answers will vary)

The most credible of the three websites would be the second option. This article, while not written by an expert in the field, interviews several medical professionals to help build the case the author is making. In comparison, the first website is biased as the organization that published it interviewed their own people. A specific type of message was presented. The last website is not credible at all as the information it presents is not accurate nor can it be easily verified.

Additional Resources

For more of a challenge, compare these two websites and determine which one would be more credible to use as research and explain the flaws in them that takes away from their credibility.

[Website #1](#)

[Website #2](#)