Class 1:
Become an
Online Sleuth
Student Handbook

Become an Online Sleuth

T	F	
T	**F**	If I can find it online, it must be true.
T	**F**	There is an email address listed in the website, so it must be a legitimate source!
T	**F**	There is a logo of the White House at the top of the page, so I can definitely trust this website.
T	**F**	The website looks really official. The information it offers must be true.
T	**F**	There are a lot of graphs and charts on the site. With all this information it must be true.
T	**F**	It is clear who wrote the content because there is contact information and the information seems current and error–free. I can safely use this information for my homework assignment.
T	**F**	I should always compare the information I find online with at least 2 other sources.
T	**F**	I should always be a skeptic when it comes to information that I find online.
T	**F**	I should always think about what's missing from a website.
T	**F**	I should always review the sources (or author) of the website.

List all the guidelines for evaluating and trusting online resources that are mentioned in the video.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Top Level Domain Extensions:

.com commercial sites

.net commonly used by Internet service providers, web-hosting companies or businesses

.org primarily used by, but not limited to, non-profit organizations

.gov government sites

.mil military sites

.edu educational sites

.biz small business site

.info used to signify a credible resource site

Popular Country Domains:

.au   Australia

.be   Belgium

.br   Brazil

.ca   Canada

.ch   Switzerland

.cn   China

.fr   France

.uk   United Kingdom

.in   India

.jp   Japan

.mx   Mexico

.nz   New Zealand

Source Comparison Tool

Name of Web Source and URL

Web Source 1:

Web Source 2:

Web Source 3:

Look at the criteria below and mark X in the "Yes" or "No" column for each Web Source

Web Evaluation Checklist	Web Source 1		Web Source 2		Web Source 3	
Authority	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is it clear who wrote the content?						
Is the author an expert on the subject? Does he have good reputation?						
Is there contact information that can be verified?						
Does the domain extension match the content?* (See reference guide of domain extensions)						
Accuracy						
Do you believe that the content is true?						
Does the information use correct grammar, spelling and sentence structure?						
Are photos, if there are any, real?						
Objectivity						
Is the information presented in a balanced way?						
Is all the information included?						
If there are advertisements, do they match the content on the page?						

Web Evaluation Checklist	Web Source 1		Web Source 2		Web Source 3	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Currency						
Is there any date to show when the content was created?						
Is there any date to show when the content was last updated?						
Do all the links work?						
Coverage						
Is the subject discussed in depth?						
Can you find the information you were looking for?						
Do links on the page lead to some other good information?						
Are the pictures on the page helpful?						

SCAVENGER HUNT RECORD SHEET

Search Topic: _____ **Site Address:** _____ **Group:**_____

Directions: Review a site and answer these questions and prompts. You may divide this task with group members.

Who wrote this information?	
Can you identify an author? A real name or an alias?	
What is the author's education, training, or experience as it relates to this content?	
Does s/he have a professional title or is s/he recognized as an authority? Identify the title.	
Is the author connected with an organization? If so, can you determine if it is a respected organization? Name the organization.	
Can you contact the author or company? How?	
If the author is unnamed, can you take extra steps to find information about this author? What steps did you take?	
When was the article written?	
Does the author include a date for the information written? What is it?	
Is it important that the information be current or are you researching a topic from long ago?	
Do the links on the site work, or are they outdated?	
Can the information be verified for accuracy?	
What sources does the author of this information use? Name one.	

SOURCE SLEUTH GAME

Directions: Sit with a partner and access your assigned information page on the web. Take turns playing this game. When you land on a square, answer the prompt based on the source information on your site. Discuss each of your answers so there is agreement before taking the next turn.

START		
Do the links on the site work?	Does the author include a date for the information? What is it?	Can you contact the author or company? How?
What sources does the author of this information use?	Is it important that the date is current? Why or why not?	Is the author unnamed? How can you find the name?
Are the sources the author uses listed in the article? Where?	Does the author include a works cited or other links? Identify one.	
		What is the author's education, training or experience?
	Does s/he have a professional title? What is it?	Is the author connected with an organization? Which one?
Are there identified sources for any data or statistics in the content? Show one statistic and its source.	Can you find other sources that share the same information?	Do you feel this source is credible? Why or why not?
		END