

YOUR DETECTIVE GUIDE: EVALUATING THE INFORMATION THAT YOU FIND



Evaluating the information



When you're researching for a project, it's important to make sure the information you find is reliable and useful. Here's how you can become a detective and evaluate your sources:



01 Time check

- When was this information published or last updated?
- Is it recent enough for your topic?
- For some subjects, like history, older sources might be okay. For others, like technology, you'll want the latest info.



03 Source spotlight

- Who created this information?
- Is it from a trusted organisation or expert?
- Look for author bios or 'About Us' pages for clues



02 Relevance radar

- Does this information fit your project?
- Will it help answer your questions?
- Is it at the right level for you - not too simple or too complex?



04 Fact finder

- Can you verify this information in other sources?
- Are there references or links to back up claims?
- Be cautious of information that seems too good to be true



05 Motive monitor

- Why was this information created?
- Is it trying to inform, persuade, or sell something?
- Understanding the purpose helps you decide how to use it



07 Click tracker

- For websites, check the URL
- edu, .ac.uk, .gov are often more reliable
- Be cautious of unusual domain names



06 Bias detector

- Does the source present a balanced view?
- Are different perspectives considered?
- Be aware of strong opinions or one-sided arguments



08 Visual validator

- Do images or videos support the information?
- Are graphs and charts clearly labelled and sourced?
- Be wary of misleading visuals or those unrelated to the content



More Tips:

- Use fact-checking websites like FullFact.org or Snopes.com
- Ask your teacher or librarian for help with tricky sources
- Compare information across multiple sources
- Trust your instincts – if something seems off, dig deeper

Remember:

It's okay to use a variety of sources, but always think critically about what you find. The more you practice, the better you'll get at spotting great information!

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