

Finding Reliable Sources (Compliments of Mr. Baier)

Tip #1: Identify Reliable Internet Sources

The Internet is a great resource, but it is also a public forum, where anyone can make a claim or an assertion. If you find an article that provides relevant information for your research topic, you should take care to investigate the source to make sure it is valid and reliable. It is your responsibility as a researcher to find and use trustworthy sources.

There are several ways to investigate your source:

- Stay away from Internet information that doesn't list an author. While the information you find may be true, it is more difficult to validate information if you don't know the credentials of the author.
- Consider the URL address; try to find internet sources that end with .edu, .gov, or .org URL's
- Check for a list of references or other citations that look as if they will lead you to related material that would be good sources.
- Try to determine if the content of the source is fact, opinion, or propaganda. If you think the source is offering facts, are the sources for those facts clearly indicated?
- Is the language objective or emotional?
- Are there broad generalizations that overstate or oversimplify the matter?
- How timely is the source? Is the source twenty years out of date? Some information becomes dated when new research is available, but other older sources of information can be quite sound fifty or a hundred years later.
- Do some cross-checking. Can you find some of the same information given elsewhere?
- How credible is the author? If the document is anonymous, what do you know about the organization?
- Are there vague or sweeping generalizations that aren't backed up with evidence?
- Are arguments very one-sided with no acknowledgement of other viewpoints?

Tip#2: Use the databases available on the library website

If you go to the library website and click on databases you will find a number of databases that the school subscribes to. These databases will provide you with a number of reliable resources. The password for the library databases is "fhsfamily."

Tip #3: Use Destiny Quest to find any books available in the library

If you go to the library website and click on Destiny Quest you can perform a search of the library catalogue to see if there are any books available in the library that may add to your research. The library has a number of career books that may help guide your research. Many of the books cover a large variety of careers, so please do not check the books out of the library. Make a copy of the section of the book that covers your career along with all the information you may need to complete your work cited page.

IMPORTANT: As you find resources, be sure to save/bookmark the links & any MLA citation information provided. This will save you much time in the long run.