Becoming an Online Sleuth

Why is it important to be alert and check sources while exploring online?

Kahoot Pre-Assessment

- Think about your favorite movie.
- Think, specifically, about why you thought it was good.
  - What did you look for?
  - What made it your favorite?

- We are always evaluating what we see and hear. Sometimes we forget to do this with online resources.

What makes a website trustworthy?

- Anyone can write things on the web.
- Although many things on the web may be interesting and correct, we can't always be sure that everything is necessarily true.
- Not everyone is an expert on the subject on which they write.
- Since we don't always know who wrote the information or if they are qualified to write on the subject, we need to be alert & check information before we can trust it.

Detecting Lies & Staying True

- The Internet allows you to find any information that you want. Just because it's online doesn't mean it's true. You must be a skeptic and ask:
  - What is the point of view of this website?
  - What are they trying to get me to believe?
  - What opinions or ideas are missing?
- You should also investigate the source & ask:
  - Who is publishing the information?
  - Is it a reliable source?
- Follow the rules of three: This means compare 3 sources of information before coming to a conclusion.

Evaluation & Trusting Online Sources

- Be a skeptic
- Don't be fooled by cool or professional looking websites.
- Ask yourself what's the point of view of the site
- What are they trying to get me to believe?
- What opinions or ideas are missing?

- Investigate the source
- Find out who published the information
- Follow the "rule of 3": compare 3 sources of information, including one with an opposing view point.
- Always check facts that you find.

Investigate the Source

- Check the URL- What is the domain extension and what does it stand for?
- Is it clear who created the content?
- Can you tell what the qualifications of the author are?
- Is the content protected by copyrights?

Who holds the copyrights?

- When a person creates an original work, he or she owns copyright to the work.
- Copyright ownership gives the owner the exclusive right to use the work.

- Ideas, facts, and processes are not subject to copyright.
- Names and titles, are not, by themselves, subject to copyright protection

- Copyright Information from YouTube

Who holds the copyrights?

- Many types of works are eligible for copyright protection, including….
  - Audiovisual works, like, TV shows, movies, & online videos
  - Sound recordings and musical compositions
  - Written works, like, lectures, articles, books, & music
  - Visual works, like, paintings, posters, & advertisements
  - Video games & computer software
  - Dramatic works, like, plays & musicals

What are they trying to get me to believe?

- What is the purpose of the site?
- Why was it created?
- Is the purpose clear?
  - › Is it to sell something, to inform, to explain, to persuade, to entertain, to share, etc.?
- What kind of website is it?
  - › Is it a business website?
  - › Is it a personal website?
  - › Is it a news source?

What is the point of view of the site?

- What information is included?
- What information is missing from this site?
- What is the bias of the author?
- What ideas or opinions are missing?
- Is the information presented in a balanced way?
- Can you detect any ideas or opinions that are missing?

Other Good Questions

- Is there contact information that can be verified?
- Are there any links or footnotes to other relevant and reliable sources?
- Does the website use correct grammar, spelling, and sentence structure?
- Are graphs or charts clearly labeled?
- Is the content current?
- Are there dates that show when the site was created and updated?