



CIVICS CLASSROOM CURRICULUM

CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION ★ YOUTH VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

9th - 12th
GRADE LEVELS

TIP SHEET
INTERNET RESEARCH

Tip Sheet

Finding what I'm looking for on the internet

1. START WITH A FEW TRUSTED RESOURCES.

You may already know of sources that are likely to yield the information you're looking for.

Your library may offer a database which contains reliable sources.

2. AS YOU SEARCH, REMEMBER THESE STRATEGIES TO HELP FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

Use the tabs to identify the *type* of resource you're looking for (e.g., news, images, video). Google Scholar is a good way to find scholarly literature.

Use specific keywords and think like the website author. Think about which words are likely to show up on the site you're looking for. For example, instead of do I have the flu try flu symptoms since that term is more likely to appear on a medical website.

Narrow down your results. You can search an exact phrase by putting it in quotation marks. For example, "Arizona Cardinals" will yield more results about the football team and less results about the bird or the baseball team. Along similar lines, you can delete key search terms by using a hyphen to narrow down your results, such as "Mustang -car".

Use operators to refine your search. Google's basic list of operators lists common search techniques.

3. AFTER YOU FIND A RESOURCE, EVALUATE ITS VERACITY BY READING BOTH VERTICALLY AND Laterally


The C.A.R.S. checklist provides 4 questions we should think about regarding online sources They are:

Credibility – Author's credentials or credibility of the organization

Accuracy – Timeliness, comprehensiveness, lack of bias

Reasonableness – Fairness, objectivity, consistency

Support – Corroboration, external consistency



Vertical reading refers to looking critically through specific website for cues to its authenticity and credibility. Vertical readers read the About Page, think about the language and appearance of the site, and look for other cues built into the site itself.

Lateral reading refers to the strategy that most fact checkers use to verify information, which is reported to be a more effective approach than vertical reading. Lateral reading means looking **across** websites to find out what other authoritative sources have to say on the topic, and about the site itself. Lateral readers ask the same type of questions as vertical readers but realize that finding the truth is easier by leveraging the interconnectedness of the internet rather than looking solely at a webpage that may be cleverly designed to deceive.