Reliable Sources

Adam Faw
Who Wrote It?
Are They an Expert?

- Author’s Credentials:
  Education, Training, Respected?

**Warning Signs:**
* Posted Anonymously
* Clearly Biased Information
* Bad Grammar, Misspelled Words
Is the Source Accurate?

- **Timeliness**: Up to Date Information
- **Factual**: Fact Based, not Opinion

**Warning Flags**
- No Date on the Document
- Vague or broad generalizations
Is the Source Reasonable?

- **Fairness**: Arguments are balanced

**Warning Signs**:

- Angry tone or language
- Broad, sweeping generalizations

“Best _____________ in the World!!”

“Worst _____________ in History!!”
Is the Source Supported?

- **Documentation:** Where did the source find this information?

- **External Consistency:** If in doubt, find another source to check facts.
Wikipedia?????
Is Wikipedia Reliable?

- Wikipedia is not considered an academically reliable source...
- *Currently*

Domain Extensions?

- .com
- .net
- .org
- .gov
- .edu
Reliable vs. Not Reliable

- [https://www.allmusic.com/artist/ella-fitzgerald-mn0000184502](https://www.allmusic.com/artist/ella-fitzgerald-mn0000184502)
- [http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9708/ella.html](http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/9708/ella.html)
- [www.thepeaches.com/music/ella/](http://www.thepeaches.com/music/ella/)
- [http://www.notablebiographies.com/Fi-Gi/Fitzgerald-Ella.html](http://www.notablebiographies.com/Fi-Gi/Fitzgerald-Ella.html)
Use Common Sense

- [http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/](http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/)