World Affairs Challenge
How to Find Credible Sources

Quick questions to ask yourself:

1) Who is behind the information?
2) What is the evidence?
3) What do other sources say?

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[Online Verification Skills with Mike Caulfield: Investigate the Source, Find the Original Source, Look for Trusted Work]

Ten-minute tutorial to build your fact-checking skills

[Civic Online Reasoning - Stanford History Education Group]

What should you look for when evaluating a source? What questions should you ask?
Ask yourself the following questions to help you determine if a source is reliable:

Author
- Who is providing the information? Are they an expert?
- Search for author or publisher in search engine. Has the author written several publications on the topic?
- Have other credible people referenced this source?

Publisher
- Is there a sponsor or affiliation?
- Do they take responsibility for the content?
- Websites: Are credible sites linking to this page?

Bias
- Is the language free of emotion?
- Does the organization or author suggest there may be bias?
- Is the purpose of the website to inform or to persuade towards a certain agenda?
- Are there ads? Are they trying to make money?

Citations
- Copy and paste a sentence into Google to see if the text can be found elsewhere.
- (Website) Are there links to related sites? Are they organized?
- Are there citations or a bibliography provided? Do they cite their sources?

Accuracy
- Is the data verifiable and accurate?
- Is the source comprehensive?

Currency
- When was the source last updated?
- Does the source have a date?

Design
- Does the source appear professional?
- Does it seem like current design?

What About Wikipedia?
- Information on Wikipedia can be edited by anyone–not necessarily an expert.
- Use Wikipedia as a starting point for your research.
- Check Wikipedia's references at the bottom of the page. Those sources are more likely to be more credible than Wikipedia itself.