**HOW TO RESEARCH** Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Sources, Notes and Citations*

**FINDING SOURCES ONLINE**

* Do a general Google search to get started
* Use sources suggested by teacher
* Look for websites that are considered **reputable** and **reliable!**

**If you are unsure about a source, do some research!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Credible sources** | **Use with Caution / May not be credible** |
| * Current (published within last 10 years) * Research articles written by respected and well known authors * Articles with references / citations * Websites registered by government and education institutions (.gov, .edu, .ac) * Academic databases (EBSCO) * Materials from Google Scholar * **Look for:** *Museums, universities, governments, large media (BBC, PBS, History), encyclopedias, etc.* | * Out of date (published over 10 years ago) * Posts from social networks (facebook) * Blogs or personal opinion sites/articles * Research articles without references/citations * Be careful with websites ending in .com, .net, .org |

* Google the source and see what others have to say about it.
* Check the site to find out who the creator/writer is.
  + If the information is not available, this is a red flag!
  + If the information is available, decide if they source can be considered reliable.
    - What is the main purpose of the website, author, organization?
    - Does the publisher/author have an obvious bias that might impact the information?

**What about Wikipedia?**

* Wikipedia is an amazing website, but it works by allowing ANYONE to edit its content, therefore, it is not reliable.
* Use Wikipedia to get an overall idea of your topic, but NEVER use it as a source to take notes from and/or include in a works cited.

**Great Alternatives to Wikipedia**

* Infoplease.com
* Scholarpedia
* Encyclopedia Britannica Online
* Google Scholar

**Some other Reliable Websites for Social Studies**

* PBS Online
* Center for History and New Media
* BBC History
* The History Channel
* Simthsonian Education

**Use the DSS LIBRARY!** <http://www.dsslearningcommons.ca/research.html>

* From the home page, click research (at the top)
* **Ebsco** – (at the very bottom right of the research page). Ebsco is an online database where you can search for articles on your topic.
* And there are a few books in the library as well ☺

**NOTE-TAKING**

* As you read, you will take notes. You will then turn your notes into full sentences and paragraphs. This will ensure that you do not plagiarize any information.
* Figure out a logical way to keep track of your sources and organize your notes. The more organized you are, the easier it will be to create your works cited.

**Sample Note-Taking Format**

*You can create your own, or take a copy of this one off the class website.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title:** |  | | |
| **Author:** |  | **Journal/Source:** |  |
| **Other:** |  | **Date published:** |  |
| **URL:** |  | | |
| **Topic: *Causes of the French Revolution***   * *The Rev began in ….* * *1 major cause was estate system….* * *Unequal taxation…* | | | |
| **Topic: Components / Timeline**   * *1775 – first battle of revolution…* * *1782 – Declaration signed…* | | | |

**WORKS CITED** (see below)

* Any time you use someone else’s work (ideas, words, research, etc.) you must give credit.
* The last page of your report/website will be a works cited using MLA style.
* Refer to the UBC guide on MLA: <http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/f/f9/Mlastyle.pdf> when formatting your Works Cited.
* You may also use online bibliography generators for help!
  + <http://www.citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-website>
  + <http://www.easybib.com/>

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**Works Cited** (Sample)

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