

TIPS FOR INTERNET RESEARCH

- ✓ Start with a Google search. It is an important first step to finding websites that have information on your topic.
- ✓ **BE SURE YOU ONLY LOOK AT RELIABLE WEBSITES! How do you tell if a website is a reliable source of information? Some guidelines:**
 - Any websites that end with **.edu** are from a school or university, and can usually be trusted.
 - Websites ending in **.gov** are from the government, and are good sources of information about laws, court cases, government programs, etc.
 - Any websites where any random person can upload their thoughts are **NOT** reliable. **Do not, under any circumstances, look at wiki.answers.com, answers.yahoo.com, ask.com, blogging sites (wordpress, tumblr, blogger, etc.) or any other similar website.**
 - Internet encyclopedias, like Encyclopedia Britannica online, are trustworthy.
- ✓ What about **Wikipedia**? Wikipedia **can be** reliable, but it is not always. A Wikipedia article is acceptable if:
 - There are extensive references and a bibliography included at the end of the article. This means the information in the article has been verified by other sources.
 - There is no message at the top of the article indicating that the article needs editing or more information.
 - The information in the article is consistent with what you already know about the topic.
- ✓ If you are unsure about a website, **JUST ASK.**