

Community Resources Online: Sexuality

Part 1: thinking critically about online sources of information

Google is a money-making corporation.
How do they make money? They are sponsored by other corporations who use the Google search engine to SELL YOU goods, services, and ideas.
Always be aware that their basic search algorithm is directing you towards buying “stuff”.
Think critically about the websites that Google chooses for you!

What do domain suffixes mean?

- **.com** = commercial website trying to sell you goods, services, and often ideas
- **.edu** = educational institutions (eg colleges, universities)
- **.org** = non-profit organizations (eg. Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund, wikipedia)
- **.mil** = military sites
- **.gov** = government sites
- **.net** = catch-all for sites that don’t fit into any of the other categories (eg. blogs, personal)
- **.ca, .uk, .au., .in** = country domains (provides geographic information)

- Evaluating a website’s **RELIABILITY:**
- 1) Look at the **domain suffix**. What is the purpose of the site?

2) Is an **author** listed? Are their credentials listed?

3) Are **sources of information** listed on the page (eg citations, sources)

4) Is there a **date of publication** on the site? Is it current info?

5) Are there **ads embedded** on the page?

6) Do the **hyperlinks** work? Is the site maintained and up-to-date?

7) Can you **verify the information** on the site in other locations on the web?



THINK: Use the info on RELIABILITY above to evaluate the following websites:

1) [Go Ask Alice!](#)

2) [Sex and Love: Women’s Health](#)

Which website, in your opinion is MORE RELIABLE information? What are your pieces of evidence?



WRITE HERE:

Go ask Alice! Is more reliable because the information is being provided by Columbia University, which is a reliable source of information.

Part 2: Community Resources for Teen Sexuality Online

Check out the following community resources for teens about sexuality and complete the chart for each:

Name of organization that created the website (if available):	Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada	Planned Parenthood Toronto	Rutgers University	Ontario Public Health
Website:	Sex and U	Teen Health Source	Sex, Etc.	Sexual Health Ontario
What do you like best about the website overall?	Clear, visual organization of information	Vibrant colours, Divided sections of information	Easy to navigate, vibrant headings which make finding information easy.	The sections of the website that are focused on one major topic, making it easy to find desired information
Is this website reliable information? How do you know?	Yes, it’s written by a recognized organization; the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada, which is definitely a reliable source in this scenario.	Yes, it’s a reliable source since it’s written by Planned Parenthood Toronto, which is a reliable source.	The website seems reliable since the information is being provided by Rutgers University, a reliable source in this matter.	It is reliable since the information is being provided by Ontario Public Health, which is a reliable source.
What major topics are discussed on the website?	The human body, sexual activity, LGBTQ+, Contraception, Pregnancy, STI’s, and Consent.	Self-assessments, definitions, contraception methods, and social media	Sexual education, STI’s, Pregnancy, LGBTQ, Abuse, Relationships, and Sex	Sexual Health, STI’s, and Reproductive Health
What’s one part of the website you found really useful and practical?	The search bar; allows me to easily find the information I’m looking for and requires very little	The “Click to talk to a trained teen volunteer”, it would be useful to someone who is going through	The heading bar, where useful information pertaining to a particular subject like Sex Ed can be	The “Find a Clinic” button, which directs users to a clinic where they can get help from medical

	navigation.	difficult times.	found.	professionals. This would greatly aid someone in need of this help or testing for an STI.
Your personal rating:	/10	/10	/10	/10

Congratulations! You’ve learned a lot of new information in the library about research and sexual health and gender.