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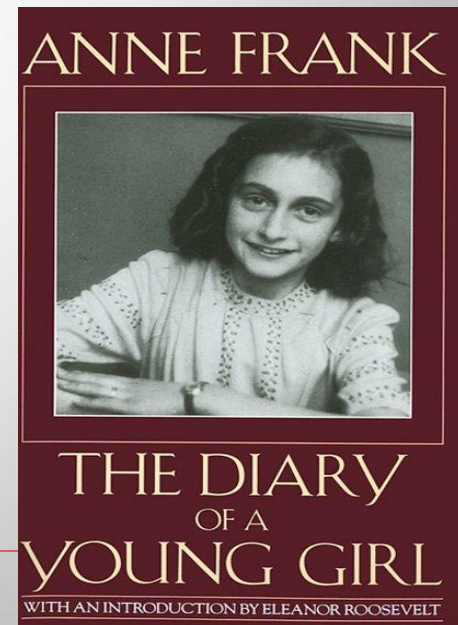
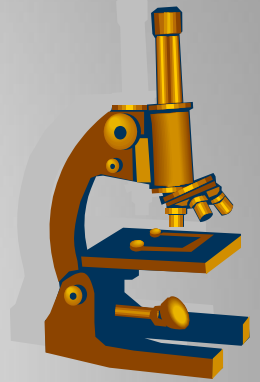
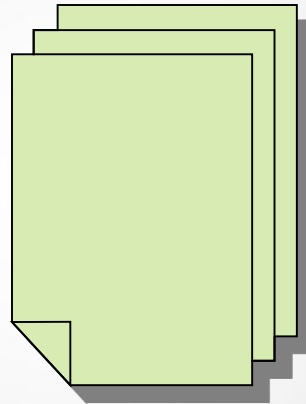
# Primary vs Secondary Sources

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A **primary source** is an original object or document  
-- the raw material or first-hand information.

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- ❑ historical and legal documents
- ❑ results of an experiment
- ❑ Personal diary or journal
- ❑ art objects
- ❑ eye witness accounts
- ❑ autobiography



# A secondary source is something written about a primary source

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□ Secondary source materials can be:

- articles in newspapers
- popular magazines
- books, including biographies and textbooks
- articles found in scholarly journals that evaluate or criticize someone else's original research



# Is this a primary or secondary source?

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A photograph of soldier on the front line during WWI



# IT'S A PRIMARY SOURCE

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This photograph is a primary source because it is an original document that offers an inside look of



# Is this a primary or secondary source?

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A commentary written on the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

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Throughout history there have been many notorious crimes that have divided public opinion. One such case was the murder trial of O.J. Simpson, a former pro-football player and actor. Simpson was accused of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994. After a lengthy trial that lasted from January to October 1995, a jury found Simpson innocent of all charges after just four hours of deliberation. Although he was found innocent in a court of law, the majority of the country was shocked and outraged by the verdict because of the overwhelming evidence that pointed to Simpson's guilt.

The first piece of evidence that points to Simpson's guilt is the history of domestic abuse against Nicole Brown Simpson. According to an article "Facing the Rage" that was published by People Magazine in February 1995, "there were many witnesses to the abuse in the Simpson marriage...Neighbors heard him screaming threats and obscenities." Furthermore, there was the highly publicized 1989 New Year's Day beating, where Nicole called 911 because she was frightened for her life. When the police arrived, they saw the beating that she received from her husband and arrested him; however, he plead no contest and received a slap on the wrist for punishment. The domestic abuse and threats did not stop even after the couple divorced in 1992. Excerpts from two 911 calls made on October 25th, 1993 by Nicole Brown Simpson show a threatening and deranged O.J. who broke into Nicole's home. Simpson can be heard yelling obscenities at Nicole in the background of the conversation. This history of domestic abuse towards Nicole Brown Simpson proves that O.J. Simpson not only had the motive to kill his ex-wife but also that he had violent tendencies and was more than capable of becoming angry enough to commit a brutal double murder.

Coupled with the history of domestic abuse, there was an enormous amount of physical evidence collected from the crime scene and O.J. Simpson's residence that ties him to the murders. One of the most popular pieces of physical evidence discussed at the trial was a black glove that was found at the crime scene that contained blood that did not match either of the victims. When the police searched O.J.'s residence, they found the matching glove. Through the questioning of witnesses, it was determined that the size and style of the matching gloves were the exact same that Simpson owned and wore. The fact that the police found a glove identical in style, shape, and size in Simpson's home to the glove covered in blood that was found at the crime scene is no coincidence and clearly shows that Simpson was present at the crime scene at the time of the murders. Who else besides the killer and the victims would have been there? In addition to the glove evidence, blood found at the crime

# IT'S A SECONDARY SOURCE

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The commentary written about the O.J. Simpson case is a secondary source because it uses evidence found in primary sources and other secondary sources. It is not an original document related to the O.J. Simpson case

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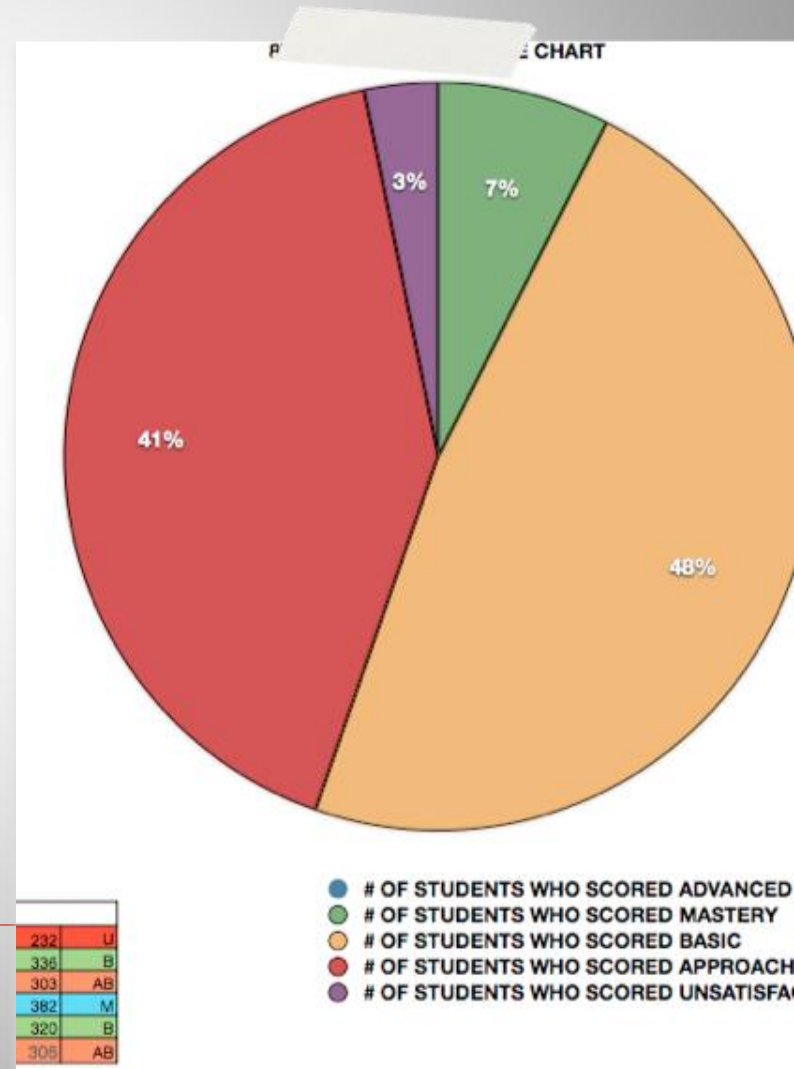
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# Is this a primary or secondary source?

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A graph that shows student data from the 2015 6th grade AIR test



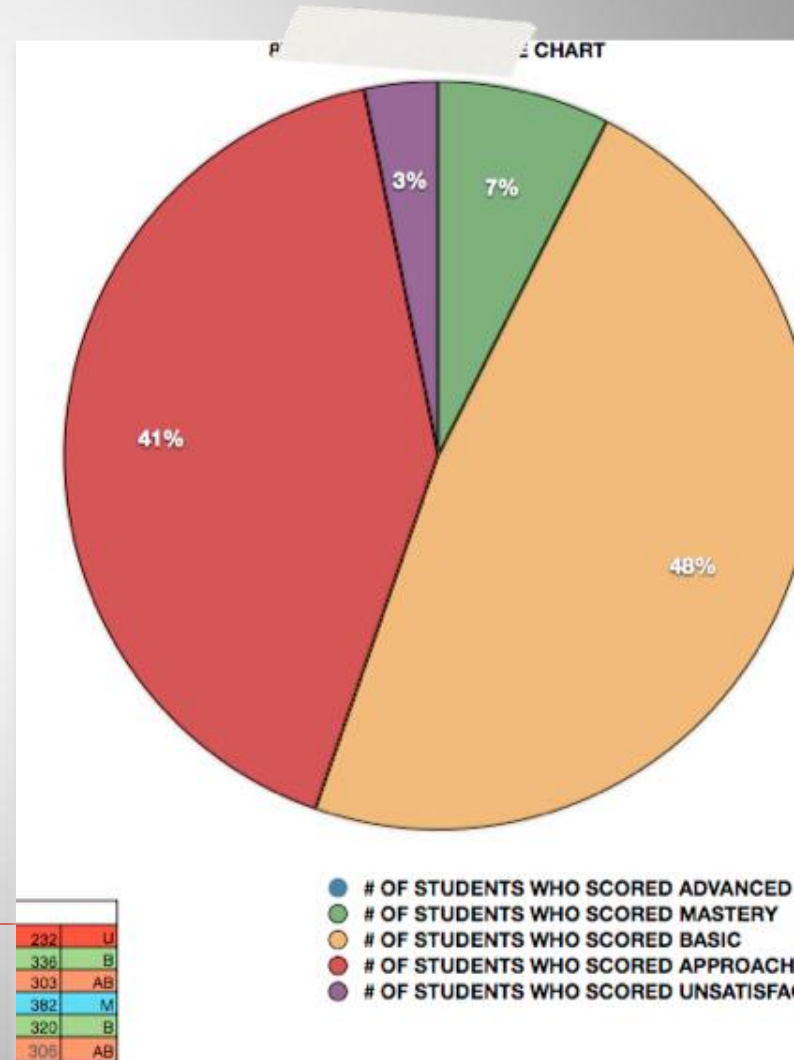


# IT'S A PRIMARY SOURCE

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It's a primary source because it offers insight into how students performed on a test.

In addition, I know this is a primary source because the text states that a primary source is something that can be used for research. This pie chart is a direct piece of evidence that shows student performance and could be used by teachers to make instructional decisions.



# Reliability of Sources

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How can you tell if a source is going to be reliable?



# Is a source reliable???

(reliable: able to be trusted)

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## Three things we need to consider

1. Who is the author?
  2. How did they get the information?
  3. Why did they write it?
-

# Who is the Author?

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-Qualifications –

Is he an expert in his field?

-Bias –

is his perspective one-sided?

■ Perspective: how someone sees a topic

---

# How did they get the information?

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- Was the author or speaker a witness to the information or did they gather it from some other source?



# Why did they write it?

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- To convince/persuade someone?
- To inform someone?
- For fun?
- Some other reason?



# How Reliable?

**'FRIENDS' TRAGEDY**  
Matt Perry relapses into  
**DRUG & BOOZE** nightmare

**THE NATIONAL**  
America's Newspaper  
**ENQUIRER**  
FEBRUARY 10, 2006

**Martha**  
Drinking,  
Crying

**JOHN KERRY'S**  
**SECRET LIFE**  
**EXPOSED**

- Affairs with stars
- Drug abuse
- Plastic surgery

**TRUMP'S NEW \$\$\$**  
**WAR WITH EX-WIFE**

**JACK**  
**SURGICAL**  
**BEFORE**

**WOMAN MARRIES**  
**A SHARK**

**He's a lot better than any man!**

**Star**

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**Adnan**

**BRIT'S**  
**HAVING MY**  
**BABY!**

- She hopes it's a girl!
- Mom & Dad horrified!
- Brit's revenge on Jamie Lynn

**OSCAR'S**  
**TOP**  
**BLOND**  
**2006**

**BRAD**  
**PROPOSES!**

**JLO:**  
**DELIVERY**  
**ROOM**  
**DIVA!**

# How Reliable?

# USA TODAY

powered by you and

# THE TENNESSEAN

**USA TODAY**  
NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

*"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."  
— Arthur C. Clarke, scientist and author*

**MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1998**

## MIT lab thrives 'out on a limb'

Computer visionaries create what you can't imagine

**John Maeda:** Professor of Aesthetics & Computation predicts a seamless technology of art and science in the near future.

**Gil Weinberg:** Listens through his headset to the SQUEEZABLE Jelly Balls which respond with synthesized music and sounds when manipulated — either squeezed, pulled or lifted.

**COVER STORY**

### Art, science tango toward future

By M.J. Zuckerman  
USA TODAY

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Within sight of the Charles River and venerable Fenway Park, there is a place drawing together some of the best minds of the information age to chase the future.

Along the way, they serve up groundbreaking technologies and elegant intellectual concepts, as well as some seemingly useless, though entertaining, contraptions.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Laboratory, which opened its doors in 1985, commands international recognition for "creating truly inspired magic. They have invented robots that "think" and the next generation of music synthesizers. They're developing smart furniture that can respond to a hand gesture and even smarter kitchen appliances, such as a refrigerator that knows when the milk is about to turn. There's money that can't be counterfeited and computerized sneakers that can transfer a digital business card from one wearer to another when they shake hands.

While some of this may sound frivolous — more toy than tech — they create the foundation for such Media Lab breakthroughs as quantum computing to overcome the current limits of silicon, personal health monitoring systems to provide early warning of illness and, of growing importance, new horizons in childhood education. And all are part of the lab's evolving goal: to expand the vision and ambition of

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶



# How Reliable?

## WIKIPEDIA

### English

*The Free Encyclopedia*  
1 731 000+ articles

### Deutsch

*Die freie Enzyklopädie*  
568 000+ Artikel

### Français

*L'encyclopédie libre*  
474 000+ articles

### Polski

*Wolna encyklopedia*  
387 000+ hasel

### 日本語

フリー百科事典  
353 000+ 記事

### Nederlands

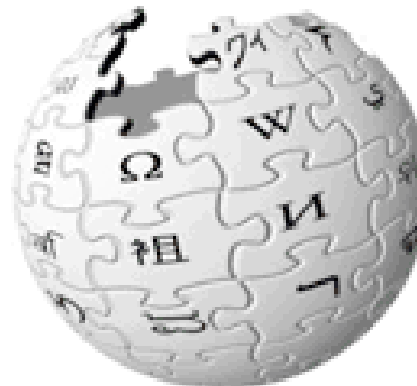
*De vrije encyclopedie*  
288 000+ artikelen

### Italiano

*L'enciclopedia libera*  
283 000+ voci

### Português

*A enciclopédia livre*  
251 000+ artigos



### Español

*La enciclopedia libre*  
222 000+ artículos

### Svenska

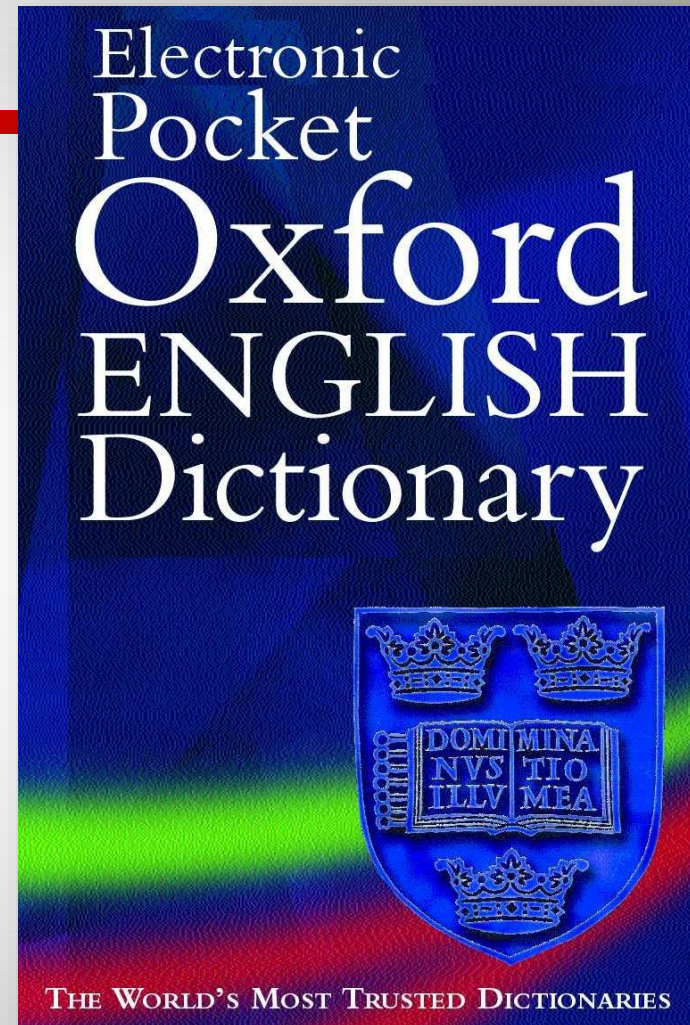
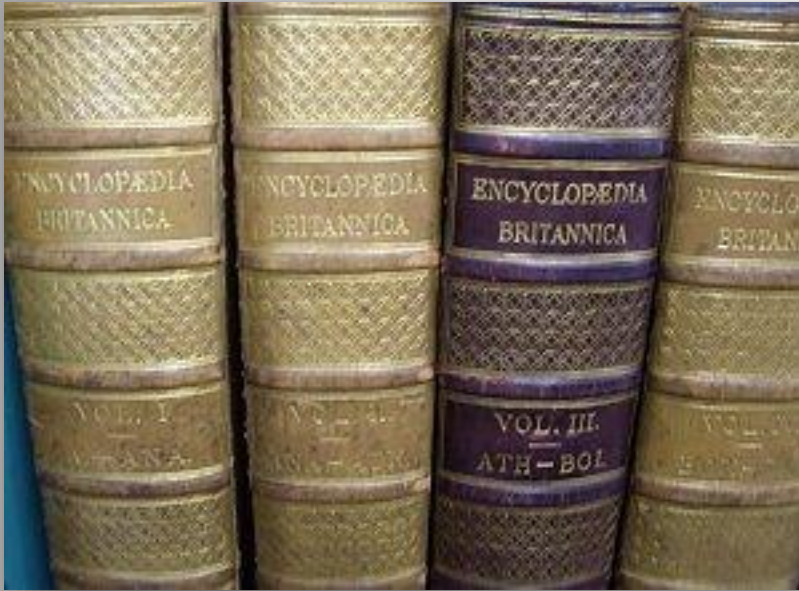
*Den fria encyklopedin*  
221 000+ artiklar

search • suche • rechercher • szukaj • 検索 • zoeken  
ricerca • busca • buscar • sök • поиск • 搜索 • haku • søk



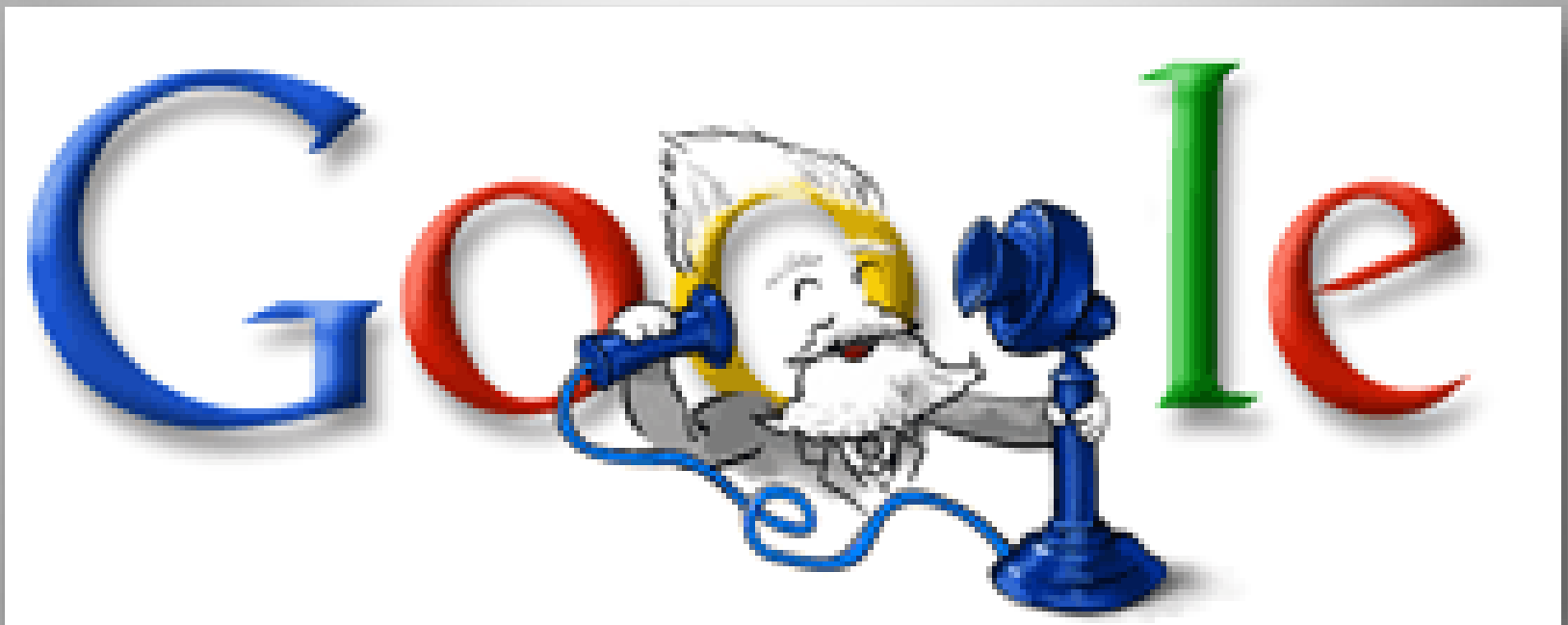
# How Reliable?

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# How Reliable?

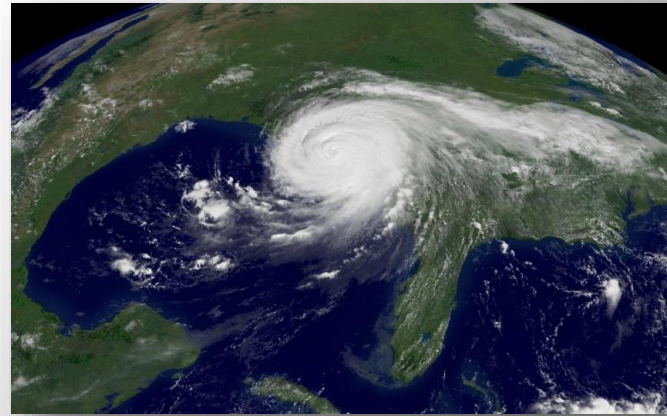
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# Let's rank some sources!

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- If you were looking for information on Hurricane Katrina which source would be the most reliable? **C. newspaper report**
- A. victim blog
- B. novel
- C. newspaper report
- D. eyewitness account



- Which one is the least reliable? **B. novel**
-

If you were doing a report on Barack Obama (USA President from 2009–2017), rank these sources from most reliability (1) to least reliability (4)

---

1. A recent *Time* magazine article
2. An encyclopedia article dated 1/30/05
3. An article in the *National Enquirer*
4. A blog by Obama's campaign manager

**1,2,4,3**

---



Rank the following resources from greatest reliability (1) to least reliability (4) for an essay titled "War in Iraq."

---

- 1. Newspaper article "War in Iraq" by a war correspondent
- 2. Tabloid article "What They Don't Let Us Know"
- 3. Internet site on Iraq and the postwar period
- 4. Journal of a soldier serving in Iraq

**1, 4, 3, 2**



Rank these sources from **most reliable** to **least reliable**.

---

- 1. Article in *The Tennessean newspaper*
- 2. Eyewitness account
- 3. Internet article
- 4. *National Enquirer Magazine*

**2, 1, 3, 4**



Low

High

- Perhaps the best way to think of the **reliability of information** is to think of it as existing on a scale, rather than falling into the categories of reliable or unreliable. Information can **range** from very unreliable to highly reliable and also anywhere in between.

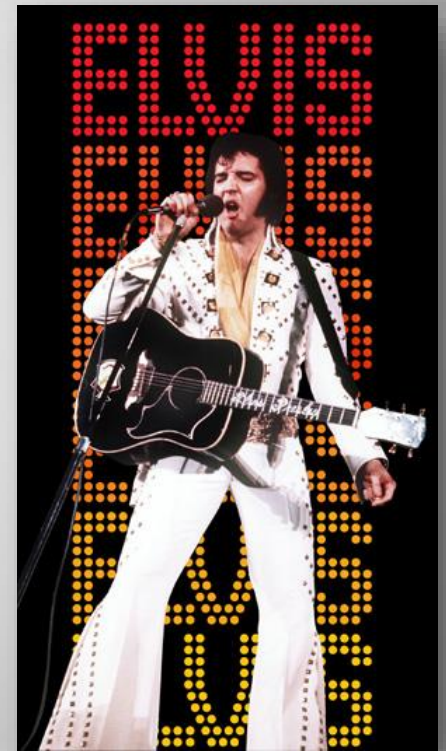




# How can you judge the reliability of the information that you find?

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- ❑ One way is to compare the information about the same topic across multiple sources.
- ❑ Let's look at three different sources on the Internet about the same subject:
- ❑ Elvis Presley



# Let's compare some sources and check for reliability.

---

- As we visit these websites, ask yourself:
  - Which one would you judge as having the highest reliability? Which one would you place lowest on the reliability scale? Which one might fall somewhere in between?
  - You will need your "Judging Reliability by Comparing Sources" worksheet.
-

# Here are the websites we will evaluate for reliability:

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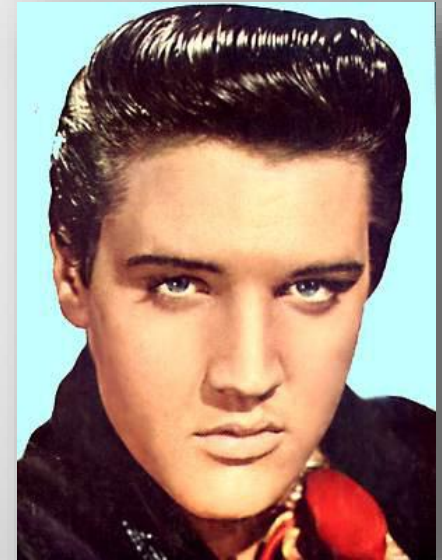
Elvis Graceland



Elvis Sightings



Info Please



# How reliable is the Internet?

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□ Let's check out this website on the tree octopus.



- Guess what??? It's a complete hoax!!
  - The entire website (as well as MANY others) is a joke.
  - Remember – Don't believe everything you read.....ESPECIALLY on the Internet.
  - Question: Is the internet a reliable source?
  - Answer: Not always....BE CAREFUL!
-

Rank these sources from **most reliable** to **least reliable**.

---

- 1. Internet website
- 2. Written diary of an eye-witness to an event
- 3. Newspaper article from *USA Today*
- 4. An article in a supermarket tabloid

**2, 3, 1, 4**

