Check RELIABILITY of Web Sources

Name ____________________________
Date ____________________________

1. Notice domain names and know what they are for.

   Restricted:
   .edu
   .gov
   .mil

   Unrestricted:
   .com
   .org
   .net

2. Are you, your parents, or teachers informed about the publisher of the site or is it unknown?

3. Scan the perimeter of the page to see what you can find out about reliability.

   o Can you tell who wrote it? Look up the author. o What organizations, institutions, agencies are connected to the site?

   o What credentials do the author/organization have for the subject matter?

   o Look for links to: “About us” “Philosophy” “Background” “Biography”

   o Can you find when the site was last updated?

   o Is there a way to contact the author/publisher?

   o What companies and organizations are linked to this site?
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4. If you are researching an organization – check the organizations rating on www.charitynavigator.org

5. Know that there are no guidelines for publishing online. Anyone can write anything at any time. See www.buydehydratedwater.com for a great example of a site that looks legitimate but is clearly a joke!