Reliability of Sources!

For your research, you need objective information to back up your point of view. Using reliable sources is the key to successful research into Historical Investigation.

You need to read and investigate with a set purpose in mind.

Below are some helpful website that may be may appropriate for the personality and debate that you have chosen to study.

Remember! – Wikipedia is NOT a reliable website, however, the information in the reference section could lead you to further information!

- Google books – allows you to type in a subject / topic that you are researching and it will provide you with a series of books that are relevant to that topic. Some will have e-books that are readily available to read online. You may need to take the citation details down of other books and find the hardcopy in a library. This will allow you to gather information from a range of sources, not just websites.

- Google Scholar – provides lists of citations or links to articles regarding the topic you type into the search bar which can lead to further reliable information and research.

- Modern History Sourcebook – can be used as a search engine to provide reliable and valuable links to resources.

- Begin a website search on your topic and use the checklist to evaluate the reliability and value of the website you come across.
An evaluation checklist for Secondary Sources

| Type of source: | __________________________________________ |
| Location:       | __________________________________________ |
| Topic:          | __________________________________________ |
| Date Viewed:    | __________________________________________ |

Reliability Key:

5 = Outstanding
4 = Very good
3 = Average
2 = Poor
1 = Low

Using the 5 points below, you will be able to come to a conclusive decision about the reliability of a source.

Authority:
- The author appears to have experience: ___
- The author is linked to a recognised university or organisation: ___
- The website is link to other credible sources: ___

Accuracy:
- The information seems to reinforce what I know to be true: ___
- The facts presented are consistent: ___

Objectivity:
- The information seems to be presented without bias: ___
- The site appears to be neutral and does not try to persuade: ___

Currency:
- The website was written recently: ___
- The information seems to be recent: ___

Coverage:
- The ideas are explained and supported: ___
- The website contains the information I need: ___

Additional notes / observations:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

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How to Find a Journal Article

There is a difference between finding articles *that exist* and actually putting your hands on an article that you discover through a search. First, you find articles that *exist*. Then you figure out how to get *access* to them.

- You can find articles that exist by using a search engine. See sheet provided.

- Through a search, you will find names and descriptions of articles out there in the world of academia. There will be special search engines loaded onto your library’s computers that generate article lists, based on your search criteria.

- To use these search engines appropriately, for example, you will need to enter your topic followed by the work ‘journal.’

Other websites may include the State Library of New South Wales or the National Archives of Australia.