



Name _____

Finding Valid Information

This learning activity aligns and contributes to the achievement with National Education Standards 1, 3 and 5 and GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS HE6.3 and HE7.3.

DIRECTIONS: Read the paragraphs. Then answer the questions.

Reliable health information helps us make good health decisions. The Internet has a lot of information and this means that assessing the **credibility** and **accuracy** of the information is very important. Information on the Web should have an identifiable source or an author. Web addresses give you valuable clues. Addresses ending in “.edu” indicate that an educational institution such as a university publishes the information; “.gov” indicates that web page belongs to a governmental organization; “.org” signifies that it belongs to a nonprofit; “.com” usually specifies that it belongs to a for-profit company.

When assessing **credibility**, ask yourself these five questions:

- Who published the information?
- Who are the authors?
- What are their **credentials**? (Credentials are qualifications that indicate that the person is suitable for something.)
- Is the information **peer reviewed**? (Peer reviewed means that the information has been reviewed by a group of professionals in the same career field.)

When you would like to determine the **accuracy** of information, note whether the information is supported by scientific evidence, data, or expert opinion. Also note if the webpage is being constantly updated. Considering the following questions will help you judge accuracy:

- Is the information based on scientific evidence?

- Is the information supported by facts?
- Is the original source of the information listed?
- Do other sources back up the information?
- Is the information current?

Be skeptical of information when:

- It is anonymous.
- It is outdated.
- It claims to be a miracle or a secret.
- No evidence is cited.
- The grammar is poor and words are misspelled.

1. Find a source on the following topics and write the web address next to it:

a. Heart disease _____

b. Diabetes _____

c. Asthma _____

d. Burns _____

e. Oral health _____

2. Decide whether these sources are credible and accurate, and explain why you think so.
