

# Website Validity

TOPIC: ONLINE SAFETY AND SECURITY

GRADES: 3-5

LESSON DURATION: 45 MINUTES

SOFT SKILLS: COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING; RESEARCH

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## Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify useful and safe websites for research and personal use.

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## Activities:

1. Just because information is posted on the internet, doesn't mean it is true. In an era of increased activity on websites and social media, the need to teach students to validate sources and be skeptical of online claims has increased.
2. The teacher can use the online book available from Netsmartz to begin a discussion regarding online information and websites: <http://cdn.netsmartz.org/ebooks/WebstersGeckoGoof-Book.pdf>
3. The teacher can also lead a class activity regarding website usage using the ideas below. The teacher can lead a discussion on the traffic light analogy below and ask students to come up with examples for each category. Afterwards, students should spend some time researching a topic either assigned or chosen and identify some green light websites they would use in their research.
  - A. Green lights: websites that are trustworthy, uses good words, doesn't have a chat box, and has correct information.
  - B. Yellow lights: are generally trustworthy but may ask for personal information or allow you to speak to others.
  - C. Red lights: filled with information for older people; you may have gone there accidentally; age restricted or requires you to enter information.

*\*Lesson is especially easy to incorporate into social studies unit.*

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