

FACT OR FICTION?

These days anyone can post on the Internet. So, how do you separate fact from fiction and know that what you are reading is reliable? As someone once said:

"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its <u>pants</u> on."

~ Winston Churchill

This is even more true now that everyone can access the Internet, and does for information.

Here are a couple of websites that can help you sort fact from fiction and outright lies:

For sorting through urban legends and dubious emails there is no better website than: http://www.snopes.com/

This site is dedicated to stomping out "*eRumors*" that show up in your email: http://www.truthorfiction.com/

This site was made famous in the last presidential election. To sort through all the political information out there the Annenberg Foundation set-up http://www.factcheck.org/

Speaking of politics, if you prefer your facts with a specific political slant you might want to consider one of these two websites:

http://www.mediaresearch.org/ Fact checking with a conservative slant

http://mediamatters.org/ Fact checking with a liberal slant

Since most of these sites cater to adult audiences you might want to consider this website as a resource for students: http://lii.org/

I believe the Internet is such a wonderful and vast ocean of information, but you must always remember to question whether that information is valid and reliable. Make sure that your students know this as well.