**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 [pants](http://) 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/](http://www.snopes.com/)

This site is dedicated to stomping out "*eRumors*" that show up in your email: [http://www.truthorfiction.com/](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/](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/](http://www.mediaresearch.org/)  Fact checking with a conservative slant

[http://mediamatters.org/](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/](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.