

FIND FACTS**ABOUT
DISEASE****Model**

Brian is writing a report on skin cancer. He wants to include information about what causes skin cancer, how to recognize it, and how it's treated. He begins by looking in a health encyclopedia, a reliable source of general health information. The encyclopedia contains some basic information about skin cancer. This gives Brian a starting point from which to search for information in medical journals and health-related Web sites. These sources contain up-to-date scientific information. He tries to find at least two independent sources for each fact that he will use in his report. He also includes information from both print and Internet sources. Because Brian uses a variety of sources, his report is accurate and complete.



Practice

For each source of cancer information listed below, answer the following questions on a sheet of paper.

1. What type of media is this—an encyclopedia, a nonfiction book, a newspaper, a magazine, or an online source?
2. Is this source reliable? Is it written by an expert? Is it based on reliable scientific information? Does the author list his or her sources so that I can check them?
3. Is this source biased? Does it present only one point of view? Is it published by an organization that is trying to sell something?

- encyclopedia article on cancer
- health textbook
- *Cancer-Fighting Recipes*, a cookbook written by a cancer survivor
- newsmagazine article on recent cancer research
- interview with a teen cancer survivor in a teen magazine
- drug company's pamphlet about cancer-fighting drugs
- Web site about cancer, created by a group of high school students
- Web site about cancer, created by the government's National Institutes of Health
- home page of a cancer research organization



Accessing Information

Ask yourself these questions about any source of information.

- Is it scientific?
- Does it give only one point of view?
- Is it trying to sell something?
- Does it agree with other sources?

Self-Check

- Does my report include information from at least three independent sources?
- Do my sources include at least two types of media?
- Are my sources reliable?

Apply/Assess

Use your research skills to prepare a one-page report on one of the diseases discussed in this chapter. For example, you could report on a particular type of cancer or allergy. You could also focus on the suspected causes of a particular disease or on a specific way of treating it. Find at least three reliable sources of information about your topic. Your sources should be independent—written by different people or organizations. Use at least two different types of media. At the end of your report, list the sources you used. Be prepared to explain why they are reliable.