

there, and select the card or cards you want to insert in the brief. Then cut and paste them.

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR ONLINE EVIDENCE COLLECTION

The accessibility of information on the Internet has revolutionized the process of evidence collection in policy debate. The Internet places billions of pages of information at our fingertips. With this bountiful blessing also comes the necessity for some careful ethical choices. The same Google search can return web pages from world-class scholars, hate groups, and elementary school students. Just as in the print media, one must make a distinction between *The New York Times* and the *National Enquirer*. Because most debate research is squad-based, meaning it is shared by many students, it is essential that there be agreement on minimum standards for the types of web pages that can be used for debate research. Following are some recommended standards:

No use of web pages that come from discussion groups or chat rooms.

No use of news blogs where you are quoting from the comments on a news story posted by a reader of the news story. Most blogs invite readers of news stories to post their own reactions; there is no reason to believe that the people who post their comments have expertise on the subject at hand. Often the people who post to a blog are identified only by the anonymous web name they used to register at the blog website.

No use of web pages where the author's qualifications are unknown.

No use of web pages where the author is a student in grade school, high school, or college.

No use of web pages from hate groups or unidentified organizations.

No use of web pages that are undated or for which a "last revision date" is unavailable.

Prefer web pages sponsored by one of the following groups:

A government institution

A major educational institution or a professor at such an institution

A recognized think tank or advocacy group (RAND, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, CATO Institute, Hudson Institute, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Hoover Institution, Amnesty International, and so on)

A reputable journalistic organization (CNN, The New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Fox News, and so forth)