



# Smart Online Research: Parent Guide

What Your 5th Grader is Learning • Lewis-Palmer District 38 • William Fonda

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## Safe Searching

**We're Teaching:** Use kid-safe search engines (Google SafeSearch), check URLs before clicking, use specific keywords, never share personal info.

**You Can Help:** Set up SafeSearch on devices, practice searching together, ask before clicking unfamiliar links.

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## TRAAP Test: Is This Source Trustworthy?

 **Timeliness** – Is it up-to-date? |  **Relevance** – Does it match the topic? |  **Authority** – Who wrote it? |  **Accuracy** – Can I verify elsewhere? |  **Purpose** – To inform or sell?

**You Can Help:** Ask "Who wrote this? How do you know it's true?" Compare 2-3 sources. Check website "About" sections together.

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## Red Flags

**Watch For:** No author name, excessive ads/pop-ups, spelling/grammar errors, claims too good to be true.

**You Can Help:** Point out red flags while browsing. Ask "Does this seem believable? Why?"

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## Ethical Use & Plagiarism

**We're Teaching:** Always give credit, use your own words, ask permission for images/videos, follow copyright rules.

**Plagiarism = copying someone's work and pretending it's yours.**

-  DO: Read, learn, write in your own words, cite source
-  DON'T: Copy-paste without credit

**You Can Help:** Ask "Where did you find this?" Encourage paraphrasing. Check that citations are included.

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## Simple Citation Format

**Include:** Author, article title, website name, date found, web address

**Example:** Smith, Jane. "Rainforest Animals." *National Geographic Kids*. Retrieved Feb 8, 2026, from [www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com)

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## Supporting Digital Citizenship at Home

**Safety:** Keep computers in common areas. Use parental controls. Set tech-free times.

**Critical Thinking:** Ask "How do you know that's true?" Discuss news together. Use multiple sources.

**Model Behavior:** Show your fact-checking. Give credit when sharing. Talk about privacy and online safety.

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## Quick Resources

**Safe Search Engines:** Google SafeSearch, [Kiddle.co](#), [KidzSearch.com](#)

**Parent Resources:** Common Sense Media ([commonsensemedia.org](#)), NetSmartz ([netsmartz.org](#))

**Contact Me:** Questions about assignments, inappropriate content, or additional support? Reach out anytime!

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*Thank you for partnering with us to help your child become a responsible digital citizen!*