The Web and academic study
How much do you know about using the information on the Web for academic study?

- Tick either True or False for each statement.
- Read the solution section on the next page to find out how you went.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. An article in Wikipedia can be used as a reference in assignments.</td>
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<td>2. Wikipedia is good for getting an overview of an assignment topic.</td>
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<td>3. Wikipedia can help find resources on a topic.</td>
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<td>4. An entry in a blog can be used as a reference.</td>
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<td>5. I can use a video on YouTube done by a university lecturer as a reference.</td>
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**Solution**

1. An article in Wikipedia can be used as a reference in assignments.
   
   **Answer:** This statement is false. Content can change at any time so it should not be used as a reference in assignments. It is good to compare information found in Wikipedia with other sources, and cite more reliable sources in your assignment.

2. Wikipedia is good for getting an overview of an assignment topic.
   
   **Answer:** This statement is true. Wikipedia is a good start, but you must use books and articles and other appropriate sources to do detailed research.

3. Wikipedia can help find resources on a topic. True or False?
   
   **Answer:** This statement is true. Sometimes you can find useful resources in the list of references at the end of a topic.

4. An entry in a blog can be used as a reference. True or False?
   
   **Answer:** This statement could be true. You need to evaluate the blog to make sure the information is credible and relevant to your topic. For example, a blog entry by a respected professional, giving an informed opinion on future trends and forecasts could be a very useful reference. Always check with your lecturer before using any information from the Web.

5. I can use a video on YouTube done by a university lecturer as a reference. True or False?
   
   **Answer:** This statement could be true. Questions to ask include: What are the credentials of the lecturer? Can the information be verified by other sources? Does the information provide a valuable contribution in support of your topic? Also check with your lecturer before using any information from the Web.

**Conclusion**

1. Follow your lecturer’s advice about the use of information on the Web, including Wikipedia and social networking sites.

2. Use a wide range of accurate information on your topic from a variety of sources.

3. Regardless of whether information came from a blog, book or journal, before you use it ask:
   
   a) Who wrote it?
   
   b) What are their credentials?
   
   c) Is the information verified by other sources?
   
   d) Would it give a valuable contribution in support of my assessment topic?