

# The CRAAP Test for Evaluating Information Sources

## Information Source Criteria

### Currency: Timeliness of the Resource

- Is the publication date recent, especially if the relevance of the source is important to the topic?
- Is a copyright date provided?

### Relevance: The importance of the information for your research interest/question

- Does this information source answer a question I have about my topic OR does it help develop a new question to pursue for my topic?
- To what extent does this topic expand/broaden my understanding of my topic OR help me find a new aspect of the topic to explore?

### Authority: Credibility and expertise of the person or group that authored the information

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of this information source?
- What makes this person or group qualified to publish this information OR what makes this person/group an expert on the topic?
- What are the author's credentials and/or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author or group qualified to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information for the author, such as a publisher, email address, or Twitter handle?

### Accuracy: The Reliability, Truthfulness, Objectiveness, and Correctness of the Content

- Is the information supported by evidence/facts?
- Can you verify any of the information in another information source?
- Does the language and tone of the information source seem unbiased, objective, and free of emotion or personal opinions?
- Are there any political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

### Purpose: The Reason The Information Exists

- Does the author make his/her intentions or purpose for the information clear?
- What is the purpose of the information: to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Is the information primarily facts, opinions, or propaganda?

**Remember that the website extension (.org, .edu, .com, .gov, etc.) is NOT a guarantee of credibility!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Information Source Criteria</b>	<b>Rate The Source 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>
<p><b>Currency: Timeliness of the Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the publication date recent, especially if the relevance of the source is important to the topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is a copyright date provided?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Relevance: The importance of the information for your research interest/question</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does this information source answer a question I have about my topic OR does it help develop a new question to pursue for my topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To what extent does this topic expand/broaden my understanding of my topic OR help me find a new aspect of the topic to explore?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Authority: Credibility and expertise of the person or group that authored the information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of this information source?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What makes this person or group qualified to publish this information OR what makes this person/group an expert on the topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What are the author's credentials and/or organizational affiliations?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the author or group qualified to write on the topic?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is there contact information for the author, such as a publisher, email address, or Twitter handle?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Accuracy: The Reliability, Truthfulness, Objectiveness, and Correctness of the Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information supported by evidence/facts?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can you verify any of the information in another information source?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the language and tone of the information source seem unbiased, objective, and free of emotion or personal opinions?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there any political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Purpose: The Reason The Information Exists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does the author make his/her intentions or purpose for the information clear?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> What is the purpose of the information: to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is the information primarily facts, opinions, or propaganda?</li> </ul>	

**Would you use this resource for a research project? Why or why not? Use the CRAAP test qualities/criteria to back up your answer.**