

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: _____

Information Source Criteria	Rate The Source 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
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Would you use this resource for a research project? Why or why not? Use the CRAAP test qualities/criteria to back up your answer.