

## The C.R.A.A.P Test

A Guide to Evaluating Sources.

The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to help you evaluate the information you find. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need.

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| <b>C</b> | <p><b>Currency: <i>The timeliness of the information.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was the information published or posted?</li> <li>• Has the information been revised or updated?</li> <li>• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work?</li> <li>■ Are the links functional?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>R</b> | <p><b>Relevance: <i>The importance of the information for your needs.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?</li> <li>• Who is the intended audience?</li> <li>• Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. too elementary or advanced)?</li> <li>• Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this?</li> <li>• Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>A</b> | <p><b>Authority: <i>The source of the information.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?</li> <li>• What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?</li> <li>• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?</li> <li>• Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?</li> <li>■ Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: <b>.com</b><br/><b>.edu .gov .org .net</b></li> </ul>                                |
| <b>A</b> | <p><b>Accuracy: <i>The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does the information come from?</li> <li>• Is the information supported by evidence?</li> <li>• Has the information been reviewed or refereed?</li> <li>• Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?</li> <li>• Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?</li> <li>• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?</li> </ul> |
| <b>P</b> | <p><b>Purpose: <i>The reason the information exists.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?</li> <li>• Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?</li> <li>• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?</li> <li>• Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?</li> <li>• Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?</li> </ul>                |

Source: [http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval\\_websites.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.pdf)