



Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test

When you search for information online, you're going to find lots of it...but is it good information? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the CRAAP Test can help you determine the quality and credibility of the source.

Currency: The timeliness of the information.

- When was the information published or posted?
- Is the information the source references up-to-date?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- If the resource is on the web, are the links functional?

Authority: The source of the information.

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Purpose: The reason the information exists.

- What is the purpose of the information?
- Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Does that present any concerns about the validity of the source's claims?
- Is the information presented as facts, opinions, or propaganda?
- Is the information objective or does it appeal to emotions and/or biases?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.

- Does the information relate to your topic and/or answer some part of your question?
- Is the coverage appropriate for the topic, too broad, or too specific?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper or in an argument?

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.

- Where does the information come from? Is the information supported by relevant evidence or social/scientific facts?
- Has the information been reviewed by an editor or the author's peers?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- How do the facts and evidence in this source compare to other sources?
- Does the source reflect one viewpoint or a variety of perspectives?
- Are there specific perspectives that aren't included?
- Does the author document their sources?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?