

CRAAP Test 2020*

When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it... but is it good information? 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.

Currency: *The timeliness of the information*

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- *Are there similar but more updated studies, articles, etc. on the same topic?*
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

Relevance: *The importance of the information for your needs*

- Does the information relate to your topic?
- *Does this information add a needed perspective to the rest of your sources?*
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level for your needs?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding this is one to use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

Authority: *The source of the information*

- Who is the author / publisher / source / sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic? *What are their primary areas of study?*
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- *Can you verify information about the author/publisher from another unrelated source?*

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

- Is the information supported by evidence?
- *How* has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- *Has all or part of the information been retracted? Or, conversely, cited many times since publication?*
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

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?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- What are the political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?
- *How was/is this author paid for their study? What are their funding source\$?*

The CRAAP Test WORKSHEET

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10. (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent.) Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether or not this is a source you should use.

Currency: *The timeliness of the information*..... _____/10

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- *Are their similar but more updated studies, articles, etc. on the same topic?*
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

Relevance: *The importance of the information for your needs*..... _____/10

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TOTAL..... / 50

✓ 45 - 50 Excellent | ✓ 40 - 44 Good | 📊 35 - 39 Average | 📊 30 - 34 Borderline | ☹️ 30 Below 🗨️