

THE CRAAP TEST

Rate each category 1-10. 1 = terrible and 10 = excellent

CURRENCY <i>the timeliness of the info</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was info published or posted? • Is the info current or out-of-date for your topic? (usually no more than 5 years old) 	
RELEVANCE <i>the importance of the info for your needs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the info relate to your topic? • Who is the intended audience? • Would you be comfortable using this info in a research paper? 	
AUTHORITY <i>the source of the info</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations? • What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic? 	
ACCURACY <i>the reliability, truthfulness, or correctness of content</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information supported by evidence? • Can you verify the information from another source? Look for source references. • Does the language or tone seem free of emotion? 	
PURPOSE <i>the reason the info exists</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of the info? (persuade, inform, sell, entertain) • Do authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? 	

MORE INFO ON USING THE CRAAP TEST:

CURRENCY:

- Time = 5 years or less
- Older can be used for history/background
- At least 1 source should be less than a year old

RELEVANCE:

- Link to research questions
- Sometimes the link is made through analysis and reasoning.

AUTHORITY:

- Author credentials: Google, "About" pg. on website, abstract, book blurb. You will need to research this on most Internet sources. If you can't find anything, then you should question the credibility.
- Periodicals/books should be no less than 5, usually 7-10.

ACCURACY:

- Question authorless pieces, unless by a credible corporate author
- Look for citations and bibliography
- Typically, book sources and journal articles have pretty good accuracy because there is a review process before publication.

PURPOSE:

- The reason the author wrote it...beware of hidden agendas
- Bias has different levels. Look at how argument is supported. Refer to media bias graphic for more guidance.

RATING SYSTEM

Total Score	Rating	Description
45-50	EXCELLENT	Sources should fall into these areas. The majority should be good or excellent, though.
40-44	GOOD	
35-39	AVERAGE	
30-34	BORDERLINE ACCEPTABLE	Rarely acceptable to use...only if to show a problem with counterargument position
BELOW 30	UNACCEPTABLE	