Do Your Sources Pass the CRAAP Test?

Evaluate your sources according to five criteria.

Currency - the timeliness of the information

- When was the information published or last updated?
- Have newer articles been published on your topic?
- Is your topic in an area that changes rapidly, like technology, health, science or popular culture?

Relevance - the importance of the information for your needs

- Does the information help answer your research question?
- Does the information meet the requirements of your assignment?
- Is the information too technical? Too simplified?
- Does the source add something new to your knowledge of your topic?

Accuracy - the reliability and correctness of the information

- Are there statements you know to be false?
- Was the information reviewed by editors or subject experts before it was published?
- What citations or references support the author's claims?
- What do other people say about the topic?

Authority - the source of the information

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of the source?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?

Purpose - the reason the information exists

- Is the purpose of the source to sell, persuade, entertain or inform?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?
- Are alternative points of view presented?
- Does the author use strong or emotional language?

The CRAAP Test isn't a checklist - instead you should be able to defend your source against each criteria.

Call: 630-942-3364
Chat: www.cod.edu/library

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE Library

Do Your Sources Pass the CRAAP Test?