Evaluating Resources: The CRAAP Test

In everyday searching, you already evaluate the sources you read based on relevance to your information needs. Taking the time to evaluate sources thoroughly will help you build a solid research foundation.

**CURRENCY**
- Is the information timely for the topic?
- If it is a website, how recently has it been updated?
- Is it timeless/seminal work (something that is used or cited by many experts in the field)?

**RELEVANCE**
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced)?

**AUTHORITY**
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author’s credentials (education, other publications, years of experience)?
- Was the author present at the event?

**ACCURACY**
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Can you verify the information?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other errors?

**POINT OF VIEW/ PURPOSE**
- Is the argument grounded in facts or opinions?
- Is the creator/author trying to sell you something or are there advertisements?
- Does it have a strong bias?
Additional Information

• The CRAAP test is just a guide, and a source may fail the CRAAP test and you can still use it
• The CRAAP test depends on the context of your research, and you are the final judge on a source.
• You can apply the CRAAP test to any source

More Resources

• Watch this video by Mason Honors College students: How Do You Evaluate the Quality of Sources You Find in the Research Process?
• Visit the libraries tutorials page to learn more about sources and how to use the library: http://library.gmu.edu/tutorials