

EVALUATING INFORMATION

When you search for information, 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. Use the following list to help you evaluate sources.

Answer the questions by ranking each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10= excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (and whether your professor would want you to!)

CURRENCY

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
- Are the links functional?

SCORE

RELEVANCE

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

SCORE

AUTHORITY

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

SCORE

ACCURACY

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been peer reviewed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Does the language or tone seem biased or free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

SCORE

PURPOSE

- What is the purpose of the information?
- Do the authors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, or personal biases?

SCORE

45 - 50 Excellent | 40 - 44 Good | 35 - 39 Average
30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable | Below 30 Unacceptable

TOTAL

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EVALUATING ITEMS FOR VALUE

Is your book authoritative? Is it appropriate for your assignment? In two easy steps put your source to the test and see how it measures up to the following evaluation criteria.

FIRST: REVIEW THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Author(s): What is their credibility? Do they have the expertise? What is their educational background? What is their career?

Date of Publication: When was the book published? Are there multiple editions? Is the information out of date?

Publisher: Who is the publisher? Do you recognize it? Is it a University Press?


SECOND: PERFORM A CONTENT ANALYSIS

Purpose & Relevance: Why and for who was it written? Is the source useful for your research? Does it answer all or part of your research question?

Scope & Coverage: Are there limitations of the information? Is anything left out? Is it comprehensive?

Objectivity & Writing Quality: Is there any propaganda or bias? Is it factual? Is it clearly organized and well researched? Are there in-text citations, footnotes, a bibliography or a works cited?

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