Evaluating Information – The CRAAP Test

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. 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.

Evaluation Criteria

**Currency:** *The timeliness of the information.*
- ✔ When was the information published or posted?
- ✔ Has the information been revised or updated?
- ✔ Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- ✔ Are the links functional?

**Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*
- ✔ Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- ✔ Who is the intended audience?
- ✔ Is the information at an appropriate level (not too elementary or advanced)?
- ✔ Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will 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?
- ✔ Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- ✔ Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

**Accuracy:** *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.*
- ✔ Where does the information come from?
- ✔ Is the information supported by evidence?
- ✔ 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?
- ✔ 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?
- ✔ Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?