Source Evaluation Checklist – Use the CRAAP Test

Perform the CRAAP test on any source you might use for research – both print and online.

First record as much information about your Source as possible:
Author:
FULL title of the Article, Chapter, Document or Webpage:
Publication title – Journal, Magazine, Newspaper, Book, Website:
Publisher, Sponsor or Database Name:
Date of Publication or Creation:
Website URL (if applicable):

Now ask yourself these questions:

1. **Currency**: When was the source published or created?
   - Is there a revision or update date?
   - A copyright date?
   - If it is an Internet source, are there broken links?
   - **Does your topic require current information or will an older source work?**

2. **Relevance**: Does the information answer your question?
   - Does the source offer anything unique?
   - Is the information general or comprehensive?
   - Who is the intended audience?
   - Is the information at an appropriate level (not too elementary or advanced)?
   - Have you looked at other sources before deciding on this one?
   - **Is it relevant to your topic?**

3. **Authority**: Is there an author?
   - What are the author’s credentials?
   - Is the author a person, or an organization or association?
   - Is there contact information (publisher, “about us”)?
   - If it is an Internet source does the URL give you a clue? (.com, .edu, .org, .gov)
   - **What makes this author an expert?**

4. **Accuracy**: Is the information based on fact or opinion?
   - Are there references or works cited?
   - Can you verify the information from another source?
   - Are there spelling or grammar errors?
   - **Does the author provide evidence for statements?**

5. **Purpose**: What is the goal of the author/sponsor?
   - To inform? To persuade or advocate an agenda? To sell something?
   - Are there ads? Do they relate to the source?
   - Are the intentions of the author/sponsor clear?
   - Is it a commercial web site?
   - A Government source?
   - An educational institution?
   - **Is the source impartial or biased?**