EVALUATING INFORMATION USING THE CRAAP TEST

With the amount of information available, it can be tough separating the good and useful information from the bad information. Lucky for you, the CRAAP Test can help! The CRAAP Test takes you through a list of questions to help you evaluate the information you find. The different quality measures will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. Give it a try!

The Five Quality Measures of the CRAAP Test

Currency: How old is this information?
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information?
- If it is on a website, are the links on the site functional?

Relevance: Does this information help me finish my assignment or answer my question?
- 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 easy or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is the one you will use?

Authority: Does the person or organization who created this know what they are talking about?
- 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 (examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net)

Accuracy: How much can I trust this information?
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or verified by someone other than the author?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or typing errors?

Purpose: Why was this information created?
- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, to teach, to sell, entertain, persuade?
- Is the information factual, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

Modified from the CRAAP Test Worksheet originally published by the Meriam Library California State University, Chico