Do Your Sources Pass the CRAP Test?

Evaluate your sources according to five criteria.

Currency - the timeliness of the information

- When was the information published or last updated?
- Have newer articles been published on your topic?
- Is your topic in an area that changes rapidly, like technology, health, science or popular culture?

Reliability - the accuracy of the information

- Are there statements you know to be false?
- Was the information reviewed by editors or subject experts before it was published?
- What citations or references support the author's claims?
- What do other people say about the topic?

Authority - the source of the information

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of the source?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?

Purpose - the reason the information exists

- Is the purpose of the source to sell, persuade, entertain or inform?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?
- Are alternative points of view presented?
- Does the author use strong or emotional language?

The CRAAP Test isn't a checklist, but a guide to help you consider whether a source is appropriate for your needs.

For more information, visit www.codlrc.org/evaluating/sources

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