**IS YOUR ONLINE RESOURCE SUITABLE?**

**APPLY THE CRAAP TEST!**

**Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose**

**CURRENCY**

How recently was the information published?

* in some subject areas, information changes constantly (e.g. technology)
* as a rule of thumb, use sources that were published within the last 5 years
* for research topics such as scientific concepts and discoveries, attempt to use sources that were published within the last 2 years, unless you need to provide a historical context for current ideas

Do the links work?

* this is a test of how frequently the site is maintained, and of the expertise of the source creator

**RELEVANCE**

Does the information relate to your topic?

* the source might have high quality information about your overall topic or subject area, but does it contain the information you need to complete this assignment, or support this thesis?

Is the website created for your age group and/or grade?

* if the information is intended for a young or inexperienced audience, the information might be superficial
* if the information is intended for an audience that is much more advanced than your understanding of the topic, try to find another source that provides you with the basic information you require to understand the concepts

**AUTHORITY**

Is the sponsor or publisher given?

* this may allow you to establish if the information is biased. For example, if a website evaluating the best green vehicles is sponsored by Toyota, you might expect Toyota vehicles to be top-rated on the site
* this is also a good way of establishing the expertise of the site creators

Is the author listed? If so, are the author’s credentials given?

* remember that anyone can create a website! Make sure that you are getting your information from someone who has the authority to direct your research

Try to use URLS such as: .edu, .gov, .org

* again, remember that anyone can create a website! .edu is reserved for educational institutions, .gov is reserved for government agencies, and .org is reserved for organizations in the community (like charities for example)

**ACCURACY**

Does the language seem biased?

* does the language seem to favour one side of an issue?
* does the language seem to overly generalize ideas

Are there spelling or grammar errors?

* a simple test of the expertise and professionalism of the creator!

**PURPOSE**

Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?

* there is nothing wrong with using a source that is opinion or propaganda, but make sure you are aware that the information is intended to express an opinion and convince you of its importance. Think critically and try to think about what information is missing that might contradict this opinion.

Is the site’s purpose to sell or to teach?

* if the purpose is to sell you something, than the source is really expressing an opinion. Remember to think critically and look for the other side of the argument.
* a source that is meant to teach you something is likely to be less biased and to include both sides of an argument (although not necessarily, depending on the creator)