The CRAAP Test!

How to distinguish good information from bad.

Use the following exercise to evaluate the credibility of your sources. Answer the questions, and then rank each of the 5 sections on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up your scores to see if you've found a good source!

**Currency: the timeliness of the information**
- When was the information published/posted?
- Has the info been revised/updated?
- Is the info current or out-of-date?

**Relevance: the importance of the info for your needs**
- Does the info relate to your topic/answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the info at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

**Authority: the source of the information**
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the credentials/affiliations?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on this topic?
- Is there contact information (publisher/email address)?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or the source?
Accuracy: the truthfulness, and correctness of the content
- Where does the info come from?
- Is the info supported by evidence?
- Has the info been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the info in another source?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

Purpose: the reason the information exists
- Why was the info collected?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions/purpose clear?
- Is the info fact? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Is the point of view objective/impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

45 - 50 Excellent
40 - 44 Good
35 - 39 Average
30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable
Below 30 Unacceptable

Total:

If you get stuck contact the LRC:

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