

The C.R.A.A.P. Test - secondary source assessment worksheet

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources (especially websites).

- Answer the questions as appropriate. Rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent)
- Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (check this with your teacher).

Currency: the timeliness of the information

When was the information published or posted? _____
Has the information been revised or updated? _____
Is the information current or out-of date for your topic? _____
Are the links functional? _____

Relevance: the importance of the information for your needs

Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? _____
Who is the intended audience? _____
Is the information 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 organisational affiliations given? _____
What are the author's credentials or organisational affiliations given? _____
What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic? _____
Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? _____
Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? _____

Accuracy: the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

Where does the information come from? _____
Is the information supported by evidence? _____
Has the information been reviewed or refereed? _____
Can you verify any of the information in another source? _____
Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion? _____
Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? _____

Purpose: the reason the information exists

What is the purpose of the information? _____
Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? _____
Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda? _____
Does the point of view appear objective and 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

