

The C.R.A.A.P. Test

Test the value of the information you are looking at!

Directions: The C.R.A.P.P. test is a college-level tool that is used to judge a source of information. Answer the following questions to see if your source of information is reliable, or just plain . . . unreliable.

Research questions

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Currency: *How recent is the information your look at?*

When was the information published or posted?

Is there evidence that the information been revised or updated ever?

Is the information current or out of date for your topic?

Are the links all functional?

Relevance: *How important is the information to your research?*

Does the information answer your question?

Is the information appropriate to your level or does it seem like it's written for a teacher?

Have you looked at other sources for this same information BEFORE choosing this one?

Would you be willing to read it out loud in front of the class?

Authority: *Where did this information come from?*

Who is the author/publisher/source?

Is there any biographical information about the author?

What are the author's qualifications?

Can you tell if the author is qualified to write on the topic?

Is there a way to contact the author/publisher/source?

Does the URL have anything to do with the subject?

Accuracy: *Is this information true or reliable?*

Where does this information come from?

Is this information supported by some kind of evidence?

Has this information been reviewed by others?

Is there a bibliography or citations?

Can you detect any bias or emotion?

Are there spelling or grammar errors?

Purpose: *Why does this information exist?*

Why was this source created? To teach? To inform? To sell? To entertain?

Do the authors make this intent clear?

Is the information based on fact or is it opinion?

Does the source make judgements about politics or religion in any way?

Scores:

24 - 20 : This source is perfect for you! Feel free to use it!

20 - 16: This source is probably ok for you to use, but you may want to find the information somewhere else too!

16 - 13: This source is questionable and you probably should not use it unless you're desperate.

13 or below: This source is total and utter . . . garbage. Use it at your own risk!