Evaluating Information: Check your Sources

You’ve found some sources that look alright, but you’re not sure: are they really good enough to go into your paper? Run them through the CRAAP test and be sure!

☑️ Currency: The timeliness of the information.
- How long ago was this information published/posted?
- Has this information been updated? Revised?
- Is this information still current or is it out-of-date?
- REMEMBER: This can be especially important when looking for certain types of information (medical, current events, etc.)

☑️ Relevancy: How well the information fits what your assignment needs.
- Does this source relate strongly to your topic? Will it tie in well?
- Is the information appropriate (not too elementary or too advanced?)
- REMEMBER: You’re not always going to have to choose between right and wrong information; sometimes you’ll have to choose one good source over another good source. Think about your paper and what you’re trying to say or prove, and then decide which source will be most helpful as you accomplish that task.

☑️ Authority: The source of the information.
- Who is the author/publisher/editor/source of information?
- What is known about this author? Contact information, education, expertise?
- Why is this author qualified to write on this topic? Why trust their statements?
- Can you think of any reason why this person may be biased in their writing?

☑️ Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the information.
- Where does the information come from? Experiment, survey, research?
- Is the information supported by other evidence? Check out its sources!
- Has the information been peer-reviewed?
- Can you verify any information in other sources?

☑️ Purpose: The reason the information exists.
- What is the purpose of the information? To inform, persuade, entertain?
- Is it objective and impartial? Are all sides of the matter represented?
- Does any part of the information reflect bias of any kind? Personal, political, ideological, cultural, etc.?