

THE C.R.A.P. TEST

A WEBSITE EVALUATION TOOL

WEBSITE:

	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	0	1	2	3
<u>C</u>URRENCY	<p>Is the information current enough for your topic?</p> <p>How long ago was the website last updated?</p> <p>What is the copyright date on the website?</p>	The website does not say when it was created or updated.	The website was created over 5 years ago and has not been updated.	The site was created or updated within the last 5 years.	The site was created or updated less than 2 years ago.
<u>R</u>ELIABILITY	<p>Can the information on this website be found on other sources?</p> <p>Does the website provide citations, a works cited page, or links to its sources?</p> <p>Is the information on the website accurate?</p>	<p>There are no citations, no list of sources, and no links to sources used to create the content on the website.</p> <p>The information is not accurate.</p>	<p>The website may make a general statement about the kinds of sources it used, but no specific sources are named.</p> <p>Some information is not accurate.</p>	<p>There is a works cited list, a bibliography, and/or links to the sources used to create the content on the website.</p> <p>Information is generally accurate.</p>	<p>There is a works cited list, a bibliography, and/or links to the sources used to create the content on the website.</p> <p>The information can be verified by many sources.</p>
<u>A</u>UTHORITY	<p>Is the name of the author listed on the website?</p> <p>What kind of website is this (.edu, .gov, .com, .org)?</p> <p>If the author is a company or organization, is it reputable?</p> <p>Does the author have any degrees or credentials? *Google the author if you don't know*</p>	<p>Author is a student or no author is listed.</p> <p>-or-</p> <p>Webpage is a .com or .org with no reputable author.</p>	<p>The author's name is present, but they have no credentials.</p>	<p>The author is listed, and they have credentials, but not in the area of the content they wrote about.</p> <p>-and-</p> <p>Site is a .gov, .edu, or reputable organization.</p>	<p>The author has credentials that verify they are an expert in the field of the content you are reading.</p>
<u>P</u>OINT OF VIEW	<p>Why was this website created: to inform you, to convince you, to sell you something?</p> <p>Does the website present both sides of an argument in a non-biased way?</p> <p>Does this website have any sort of social or political affiliation (conservative/liberal, pro-life/pro-choice, etc)?</p>	<p>The purpose is personal to the author, or the site exists to sell you something.</p>	<p>Purpose is mainly to sell, persuade, or has biased information, but some of the information is factual.</p>	<p>Offers factual information, but may not be totally free of bias.</p>	<p>Purpose is to support research and learning. The information is balanced and strives to avoid bias.</p>
TOTAL POINTS	<p><u>YOUR SCORE MEANS</u></p> <p>0 to 3: Highly questionable resource – AVOID</p> <p>4 to 6: Useful for getting ideas or finding terms, but don't use this as a resource for a paper.</p> <p>7 to 9: Generally a good source for a paper, but check with your instructor if in doubt.</p> <p>10 to 12: Excellent source for a paper.</p>				



Created by John Rasel & Scott Trimmer

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