The CRAAP Test is based on an acronym created to help you remember important criteria used to evaluate information. The value of each criterion will vary depending on your situation or need. Evaluation is a learned skill that takes lots of practice. Ask for help, if you need it!

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Currency: The timeliness of the information.**
- When was the information published or posted?
- Is the information revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? Be honest, this might require more research.
- Are website links functional? Any sign of recent updates (life) or is the website dead? Avoid ghosts.
- Does your topic require or will it benefit from using historical primary sources? If so, determine the appropriate dates for historical sources related to your topic and ignore currency.

**Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.**
- Does the information relate directly to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (not too elementary or advanced for your need)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources so that you may confidentially determine if the source you are viewing is really one of the best for your topic? Or does this source fall into the “good enough” category?
- If asked by your teacher or peers to defend the content and selection of this source, could you do it? If yes, then would you truly be comfortable doing so? If not, then move on.

**Authority: The source of the information and the author's credentials.**
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? Does anyone accept responsibility for the content?
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? Look for biographies, vitae, & resumes.
- Is the author qualified to write about this specific topic? Try websites, social media, & research databases.
- Is there any kind of contact information, such as an email address for the publisher or author?
- Does the website domain reveal anything about the author or publisher/creator? (.com .edu .gov .org .net)

**Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.**
- Where does the information come from? Determine if the content is used in or out of its original context.
- Is the information supported by evidence? If it is paraphrased or summarized, are there proper references?
- Are there references or links to primary sources to support statistical data? If you can’t trace statistical data back to the point of origination, then move on. Blind trust in numbers is not an option in real research.
- Is the information professionally reviewed or refereed? For popular publications, is there an editor?
- Does the author, publisher, or website accept responsibility for the content? If so, is there contact info?
- Can you verify the information in another credible source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem objective 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? Is it trying to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- Does the website domain registration reveal anything about the purpose of the publisher or creator?
- Does the author, publisher, or sponsor clearly disclose their intentions and purposes? Look for evidence of financial backing or donations that could taint the information presented. FOLLOW THE MONEY!
- Is the information factual? If not, is it opinion, propaganda, sales, or another form of persuasion?
- Can you detect any political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal bias?
- Does the point of view seem objective and impartial? Does it feel balanced? Follow your gut feeling.

Adapted from the original CRAAP Test created by Meriam Library at CSU- Chico (KD, 2017)