Do you have a Reliable Source: Using the CRAAP Test to Evaluate a Source

Using the source of information in front of you, answer each of the questions under their categories.

What is the nature of this information? (website, article, blog, etc.)? _____________________

Identify the source with a citation in APA or MLA format:


Is it Legitimate or is it “CRAAP?”

**Currency:** *The timeliness of the information.*

- When was the information published or posted? _____________________
- Has the information been revised or updated? □ Yes □ No □ Can’t tell
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
  □ Yes □ No □ Not Sure
- Are the links functional? □ Yes □ No (some are broken or dead)

**Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? □ Yes □ No
- Who is the intended audience? _________________________________
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
  □ Yes □ No □ Can’t tell or unsure
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
  □ Yes □ No
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper? Why or why not?


**Authority:** *The source of the information.*

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? _________________________________

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- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations? ________________________________

- Is the author qualified to write on the topic? How do you know? ________________________________

- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address? □ Yes □ No

 ToString: What is the domain (e.g. .com .edu .gov .org .net)? What does it say about the web source?

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

- What is the source of the information? ________________________________________________________

- Is the information supported by evidence? □ Yes □ No

- Has the information been reviewed or refereed by experts in the field? □ Yes □ No

- Explain how you can verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge:
  ___________________________________________________________________________________________

  ___________________________________________________________________________________________

- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion? □ Yes □ No

- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors? □ Yes □ No

Purpose: The reason the information exists.

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade (circle one)?

- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? □ Yes □ No

- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda (Circle one)? How do you know? ________________
  ___________________________________________________________________________________________

- Does the point of view appear objective or biased (Circle one)? How do you know? ____________
  ___________________________________________________________________________________________

- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases? □ Yes □ No

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Do you have a reliable and useful source? How do you know?

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