Research Source Evaluation
Applying the CRAAP Test

Currency: The timeliness of the information
- When was the information published, posted, or last updated?
- Does the date for this information seem ok given your topic? [YES NO]

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs
- Does the information relate to your topic and help to answer your specific research question(s)? [YES NO]
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding on this one? [YES NO]

Authority: The source of the information
- Who is the author or creator? ________________________________
- If there is an author listed, is the author an authority on the topic? What are his/her credentials? Do some research to find out and explain what you learn here:

- What is the name of the website or online publication (newspaper / magazine) where this article is posted? ________________________________
- Is the publication or sponsoring organization reputable / qualified to offer information on this topic? How do you know? Use the following questions to help you decide:
  a) Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? .com .edu .org .gov
     Is there an “About Us” or “Sponsors” link to more information about the site? What did you learn by reading this?

  b) When you do some research (Google!), how is this website or online publication described by other sources? What did you learn from this research?
**Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content**

- Is the information supported by evidence?
  Are experts cited? Are these experts reliable?  YES  NO
  Are research studies cited? Are they real and *truly related* to the topic?  YES  NO
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?  YES  NO
- Can you verify any of the information in another source? Are other sources also reporting on this issue? Does the information given here hold up when compared with what other sources say about this topic?  YES  NO

*Explain:*

**Purpose: The reason the information exists**

- Is the information here presented as fact or opinion?  FACT  OPINION
- What is the purpose of this site / article?
  inform  teach  sell  entertain  persuade
- Do the authors /sponsors make their purpose clear?  YES  NO
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?  OR…
  Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, or personal biases?  
  (ask yourself: who might benefit from this? who might be harmed? who might make money? whose ideas are included here and whose might be left out?)  IS THIS…

1  2  3  4  5
**Very Impartial**
Does not seem to lean towards any specific viewpoint or “side”
**Very Biased**
Definitely seems to favor a certain viewpoint or “side” of an issue

**Rate this site overall**

Based on the answers to the above questions, rate the content of this source for your research purposes:

Very Useful  Somewhat Useful  Probably Not Useful

Title of this web page and/or article: ____________________________________________