

Evaluating Information

We evaluate information to determine its usability for and applicability to our course assignments, ex. research papers & group projects, and our lives, ex. flu symptoms. How we evaluate the information we find ultimately determines how we make critically-informed decisions.

The following information evaluation models can be applied to both print and digital information (and their containers, ex. books, articles, journals, websites, blogs, videos).

6 Elements of Information Gathering

- **Who** - Who created/authored/sponsored/published this information?
- **What** - What is the information's intent, function, or purpose?
- **When** - When was the information published or produced?
- **Where** - Where was the information published/found/located? Was the location reputable?
- **Why** - Why was the information created? OR Why do you need this information?
- **How** - How can you use this information?

CRAAP Test

- **Currency** - Timeliness of information
- **Relevance** - Importance of information for your research needs
- **Authority** - Source of the information
- **Accuracy** - Reliability, truthfulness, and overall correctness of information
- **Purpose** - Reason the information exists

Some **keywords** that you might use when applying the CRAAP Test include -

Publication Date	Edition/Translation	Primary Source
Secondary Source	Audience	Author/Creator
Publisher	Website URL	Refereed/Peer-reviewed
Propaganda/Fact/Opinion?	Spelling/grammatical errors?	

(The original **CRAP** test was the brainchild of Molly Beestrum & Kenneth Orenic, Dominican University, River Forest, IL.)

P.R.O.V.E.N.

- **Purpose** - How/why was source created?
- **Relevance** - What is value of the source for your needs?
- **Objectivity** - How reasonable/complete is the information? Is it biased?
- **Verifiability** - How accurate/truthful is the information?
- **Expertise** - Who is the author/creator of the source?
- **Newness** - What is the age of the information?

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