

19. Evaluating Sources: the CRAAP Test

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When searching for information and sources for your assignments, sorting through what you find can be challenging. How do you know you're using the most appropriate sources? Use the **CRAAP** test to evaluate your sources on their **Currency**, **Relevance**, **Authority**, **Accuracy**, and **Purpose**. Depending on your topic or area of study, certain criteria may be valued differently, e.g., *Currency* of a source may be less important in a paper about Shakespeare than stem cell research.

Currency	When was the information published? Does your topic require current sources?
Relevance	Who is the intended audience of the source? How does this source relate to your research question?
Authority	Who is the author and what are their credentials? Are they qualified to write about this topic?
Accuracy	Is the source peer-reviewed? Are the conclusions supported by evidence? Is the information correct? Can it be verified independently?
Purpose	Is the source objective or biased in some way? Do the authors make their purpose clear? Does the source acknowledge potential bias or conflict of interest?