

CRAAP Test

Evaluating information – how to use CRAAP test

When evaluating the quality of the information, you can help yourself using the CRAAP test. The CRAAP test consists of five basic criteria with auxiliary questions that are used to evaluate the information found. The importance of each criteria may vary on the specific news story.

Answer the following questions and evaluate each criteria from 1 to 5 (1 = unreliable source; 5 = excellent source). When you calculate the points, you will get an indicative idea whether the source is reliable.

<p>Currency: <i>Time of publishing the information</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any newer sources on this? 2. In the meantime, have other changes/events taken place, has new research been carried out? 3. Is the information original or republished?
<p>References: <i>The background of news stories</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the news story backed by evidence? 2. Do the authors mention how they came across the information – did they do a survey, were they present at that place, did they speak with people,...? 3. Do they differentiate between facts and opinions?
<p>Authority: <i>Qualification and experience of the author of the news story</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the author sufficiently qualified, educated or experienced to comment on the topic? 2. Does the author have longer experience writing about this topic? 3. Is it clear from the style of writing and grammar that the author has expertise?
<p>Authenticity: <i>Reliability and credibility of the medium that provides the information</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How reliable are other news stories published by this medium (newspaper, website, television, channel)? 2. Do other reliable sources confirm the information? 3. Do the editors create their own content or are they just copying someone else?
<p>Purpose: <i>The distance of the author and the medium from the topic - or bias and prejudice</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the author/medium directly interested in the topic or have a conflict of interest? 2. Does the information try to stimulate emotions – e.g. anger? 3. Does the author/medium also mention the other party's arguments, cite critical opinions?

20-25: Excellent source

15-19: A good source

10-14: Average source

5-9: On the edge of acceptability

Under 5: Unacceptable source

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