CRAAP Test : Evaluating Sources

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then score each of the five parts from one to ten (1 = unreliable and 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the source (and whether your professor would want you to!).

Currency:
the timeliness of the source's information.
- When was the information published?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your research topic?
- Are the links functional?

Score:

Accuracy:
the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the source's content.
- Where does the information comes from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify the information from another source?

Score:

Purpose:
the reason the source exists.
- What is the purpose of the source?
- Does the author make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information within the source fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

Score:

Relevance:
the importance of the source for your research needs.
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?
- Does the information relate to your topic
- Who is the intended audience?

Score:

Authority:
the author or creator of the source.
- Who is the author/publisher/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organization affiliations given?
- What are the author's qualifications?
- Is there contact information?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

Score:

Total Score

- 45-50 Excellent
- 40-44 Good
- 35-39 Average
- 30-34 Borderline Acceptable
- Below 30 CRAAP