

CRAAP in Action

Use this sheet to help you evaluate literature that you leverage.

This chart is intended to provide guidance for personal use for the attendees of the “*Science & An Introduction to Scientific Literature*” presentation, as a personal tool for evaluation of literature and resources they use.

Currency	The timeliness of the information. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● When was the information published, posted, revised or updated?● Does your topic require current information or will older resources suffice?● If a website, are links functional and current?
Relevance	The Importance of the information for your needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Is it relevant to your purposes or answer your question?● Who is the intended audience?● Is the information at an appropriate level?● Would you be comfortable citing this resource in your project?
Authority	The source of the information. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?● What are their credentials or organizational affiliations?● Is the author qualified to write on this topic?● Is there contact information, such as publisher or email address?● Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (.com vs. .edu vs. gov. vs. .org, etc.)
Accuracy	The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Where does the content come from?● Are there references and citations?● Is the information support by evidence?● Has the information been reviewed (peer-review)?● Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?● Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?● Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?
Purpose	The reason the information exists. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What was the purpose of the information? (Inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade)?● Do the authors make their intentions or purpose clear?● Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?● Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?● Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?


	Avoid	Use Caution	Likely Reliable	
C	The source is out of date or too old.	Within date but doesn't reflect the latest advances	The source is within the last 10 years and have information about the latest advances and ideas	
R	The source is unrelated to your topic	The source has a small amount of information on your topic	The source is directly related to your topic, and clearly helps to support your argument	
A	The author is unknown OR the author is not an expert	The author is known, but is not an expert on the topic	The author is known and is an expert in the topic	
A	Facts seem incorrect or are not supported by other sources or citations	Facts seem correct but not cited	Facts are correct and backed up by citations and other sources	
P	The source is intended to sell something or is biased	The source is intended to provide information and discusses multiple views of an argument or issue	Intended to provide information and it presents multiple views or an argument or issue, or makes a strong case of one-side supported by many citations from other sources	

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