

# EVALUATING SOURCES

Community College of Aurora

# Evaluating Sources

## Evaluating Sources-Appling the CRAAP standard

**Currency**: The timeliness of the information

**Relevance**: The importance of the information for your needs

**Authority**: The source of the information.

**Accuracy**: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.

**Purpose**: The reason the information exists.

# Evaluating Sources

Currency: *The timeliness of the information.*

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of date for your topic?
- Are the links functional?

- <http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/evalsites.html>

# Evaluating Sources

**Relevance**: *The importance of the information for your needs.*

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

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# Evaluating Sources

Authority: *The source of the information.*

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?
- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?  
examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net \***

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# Evaluating Sources

**Accuracy**: *The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content.*

- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

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**Purpose:** *The reason the information exists.*

- What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?

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