

The CRAP Test is a simple and quick way to evaluate a source for possible use - be that an article, website, report, or whatever. We now have instantaneous access to an incredible amount of information - now the challenge is to determine whether or not the information we come across is reliable and trustworthy.

Introducing the CRAP Test.

Currency	When was the source written? Published? Updated? Is the source current enough for your needs?
Reliability Relevance	Is the information still relevant today? Are there links to other articles/sites/sources within the source? If so, how many and how reliable are they? Is it a primary or secondary source? Was it peer-reviewed prior to publication?
Authority Audience	Who is the author of the source? What are his/her credentials? Who does he/she work for? Who published the source? What is their reputation? Google the author and the publisher institution.
Purpose Point of View	Why was this source published? Is it intended to persuade or inform? Is it fact or opinion? Is it biased? Are there ads, and if so, what purpose do they serve? Is this a first-hand account of an event or research?

After applying the CRAP Test you should be able to answer this question: Can I use this source for my paper, assignment, report, etc. - no matter if you are in high school, college, graduate school, work for a company, or prepare a briefing for the President of the United States.

Please note: bias is inherent in anything we read - your responsibility is a) to recognize the bias and b) evaluate how much it influences the source and determines its message.

More information about the CRAP Test: <http://blogs.agu.org/geoedtrek/2016/02/24/crap-test/>

Assignment. Apply the CRAP Test to the two sources provided by completing the tables on the following two pages.

Citation of the source: Dihydrogen Monoxide at <http://www.dhmo.org/>

Currency:

When was this article written/updated?	Date:
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Relevance:

Is the article's information still relevant today?	
Who is the intended audience of this article?	
Are there links to other sites/sources within the article? If so, how many?	

Authority:

Who authored this source? Is it a person or institution?	
What are the website's/publication's credentials? How do you know this author is an expert?	
Look up the author/institution in Google. What do others say about him/her/it?	

Purpose:

Why was this article published? Is it intended to persuade or inform?	
Who is the intended audience? The general public? Scholars? Experts?	
Is it fact or opinion? Is it biased?	
Are there ads If so: what purpose do they serve?	

The bottom line: Would you use this source for a Presidential Briefing? Select Yes or No .

Citation of the source: Science 360 News at <https://news.science360.gov/files/>

Currency:

When was this source written/updated?	Date:
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Relevance:

Is the information still relevant today?	
Who is the intended audience of this source?	
Are there links to other sites/sources within the source? If so, how many?	

Authority:

Who authored this source? Is it a person or institution?	
What are the website's/publication's credentials? How do you know this author is an expert?	
Look up the author/institution in Google. What do others say about him/her/it?	

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The bottom line: Would you use this source for a Presidential Briefing? Select Yes or No .
