Do You Know Your CRAAP?

Students, do you know what a credible resource is and what is not? The world today has so many websites that choosing the first result that pops into Google might not be the most credible, relevant, accurate, authoritative, or purposeful option. Below is a worksheet to rate how reliable the website/database content is. Rate the sections between 1 and 5, 1 being the most unreliable and 5 being the best.

Currency

- When was the information created?
- Has this information been revised and/or updated? Do all the links within the site work?
- Is the information current or out of date for your topic?

Relevance

- Who is the intended audience?
- Does the information match your education level? (not elementary or high school)
- Does the information support your research topic?

Authority

- Check the URL. Is this a commercial (.com), government (.gov), or education site (.edu)?
- Who sponsors the website? Does this group, person or agency have a good reputation? Is there any form of contact information on the page?
- What are the author’s credentials for this subject (academic degree, background experience) Does he or she have affiliations with a university, government agency, advocacy group or private business?

Accuracy

- Does the information similarly match information from other websites?
- Does the site have a bibliography?
- Are other sources cited by the author within the text?

Purpose

- Is there an obvious bias (political, cultural, religious or personal) in the article?
- Is the author being objective and impartial?
- What is the purpose of the given information?

15-20 Excellent  •  14-10 Average
9-5 Barely Useable  •  Below 4 unusable