The CRAAP Test

Ask these questions before using a resource for your assignment:

**Currency:** What year was the material published? Is your topic time-sensitive? Have there been new developments on your topic since the source was published?

**Relevance:** Does the item apply to your research question? Is the level appropriate (e.g. is it designed for elementary students, graduate students, etc.)?

**Authority:** Who wrote the item and are they qualified to write on the topic? Is the information accurate/trustworthy, i.e., are statements backed up with proof? Who published it? Does the creator or publisher have an agenda? Is contact information available for the author? For websites, consider how the URL of the site ends, e.g., .gov, .edu, .ca, etc. (.org sites can also be good sources, but remember that any organization can use that designation regardless of their reliability).

**Accuracy:** Where does the information come from? Is the information supported by evidence? Is the information peer-reviewed? Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion? Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors? Can you verify any of the information?

**Purpose:** Was the item written for educational purposes or was it written to entertain or sell something? Does the author or publisher have an agenda that they are trying to promote? Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda? Are biases evident in the work?

If it doesn’t seem right for your research, it’s CRAAP!

Reference:
Used and modified with permission.