

CRAP Test



Steiner, Peter. "On the Internet, Nobody Knows You're a Dog." Cartoon. *The New Yorker* 5 July 1993: n. pag. *The New Yorker*. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

There is an immense amount of information available online and it can be very difficult to know what is true and what is not. It is very easy to take information at face value and spread it about, like sharing an article on Facebook or using a website in a scholarly research paper, for example. Unfortunately, if we don't critically think about the source and the information we're sharing, we could be sharing misinformation, just like spreading rumors.

We can stop sharing misinformation if we take a moment to evaluate the source of information. The CRAP Test, developed by Molly Beestrum, is a helpful tool to use when trying to decide if a website is a credible, valid source. The CRAP Test looks at four major areas: currency, reliability, authority and purpose. When determining whether a website is credible or not, evaluate it on those four areas. Here are a few suggestions to help you think through your evaluation process.

- **Currency**
 - How recent is the information?
 - How recently has the website been updated?
 - Is it current enough for your topic?
- **Reliability**
 - What kind of information is included in the resource?
 - Is content of the resource primarily opinion? Is it balanced?
 - Does the creator provide references or sources for data or quotations?
- **Authority**
 - Who is the creator or author? What are their credentials?
 - Can you find any information about the author's background?
 - Who is the publisher or sponsor? Are they reputable?
 - What is the publisher's interest (if any) in this information?
 - Are there advertisements on the website? If so, are they cleared marked?

- **Purpose/Point of View**

- Is this fact or opinion? Does the author list sources or cite references?
- Is it biased? Does the author seem to be trying to push an agenda or particular side?
- Is the creator/author trying to sell you something? If so, is it clearly stated?

Upon considering these factors, you can make an educated decision about whether or not the resource is credible and should be used. When we assess websites against the CRAP test, we're doing our due diligence against spreading information rumors, as well as making sure that we're using credible, reliable sources in our assignments!

If you have any questions or concerns about using the CRAP test, or evaluating websites and resources, please do not hesitate to contact the CCCO Librarian at cccolibrarian@ccconline.org.

The content for this resource is adapted with gratitude from work created by Molly Beestrum.