


EVALUATING SOURCES

MSUB Writing Center in the ASC


Filter through the CRAAP!

- The CRAAP Test
 - Currency
 - Relevance
 - Authority
 - Accuracy
 - Purpose
- Source:
 - <https://library.csuchico.edu/sites/default/files/craap-test.pdf>


Currency

- Refers to the timeliness of the information.
 - When was the information published or posted?
 - Has the information been revised or updated?
 - Does your topic require current information or will older sources work as well?
 - **Online sources:** Are the links functional?
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Relevance

- Refers to 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 the one you will use?
 - Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?
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Authority

- Refers to the source of the information
 - Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
 - What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
 - Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
 - Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
 - **Online sources:** Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (ex. .com, .edu, .gov, .org, .net)
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Accuracy

- Refers to the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the 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 unbiased and free of emotion?
 - Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?
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Purpose

- Refers to the reason the information exists.
 - What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain, or persuade?
 - Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
 - Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?
 - Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
 - Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
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*Want help
evaluating
sources or
with
anything
else writing
related?*

- City College ASC – Tech Building
 - 406-247-3022
 - M-F 8am-5pm
- University Campus ASC – Student Union Building
 - 406-657-1641
 - M-Th 8am-8pm; F 8am-5pm
- Writing Services
 - Drop-in writing support available at both campuses
 - Online appointments and email consultations available
 - Email: writingcenter@msubillings.edu
- To schedule an appointment and for more information, visit: www.msubillings.edu/asc/