**C.R.A.P. Test**
***Evaluating Research Sources***

**Currency**
• Is the information recent enough for your topic?
• Has it been published in the last x years? (x will vary, depending on your topic)
• If you have a historical research topic, was it published around the date of the original event?
**Reliability/Relevance**
• Where does the information come from, and does the information apply to your topic?
• Is it a primary or secondary source?\*\*
• Are methods or references provided?
• Who published the information?
• Was it peer-reviewed?
• Does all of the information apply to your topic, or only part of it?
• Is the information general or detailed?
• Is the information balanced or biased?
**Authority**
• Who authored this information?
• Was it a single person or several people?
• Was it a corporation or organization?
• Are their credentials provided?
• What is their reputation or expertise?
**Purpose/Point-of-View**
• What was the intent of the author, and how is the author connected to the information?
• Who is the intended audience?
• Is the information intended to inform, persuade, sell, or entertain?
• Is this a first-hand account of an event or research?
• Does the author have a vested interest in the topic?
• What is the domain (i.e. .com, .org, .gov, .edu)?

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| --- | --- |
| **·**[**.BIZ**](http://www.internetslang.com/.BIZ-meaning-definition.asp) | Top level domain for business |
| **·**[**.COM**](http://www.internetslang.com/.COM-meaning-definition.asp) | Top level domain for commerce |
| **·**[**.EDU**](http://www.internetslang.com/.EDU-meaning-definition.asp) | Top level domain for education |
| **·**[**.GOV**](http://www.internetslang.com/.GOV-meaning-definition.asp) | Top level domain for governments |
|  **.ORG** | Top level domain for non-profit organizations |

\*\* A **primary source** is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event. Some types of primary sources include ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, journals, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records

\*\* A **secondary source** interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them. Some types of secondary sources include: PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias