**C.R.A.P. Test Checklist**

**Evaluating Research Sources**

The following checklist presents questions to ask to help determine whether a online resource is suitable for a research paper, or not. Don’t expect to be able to answer all the questions, all the time, for all Web sites you look at. Rather, try to use the questions as a tool to help you look at the Web pages critically.

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| **C**urrency | * Is there a date stating when the document was originally created?
* Is it clear when the site was last update, revised or edited?
* Is it clear who is responsible for the creation and/or maintenance of the site or page?
* If there are links to other Web pages, are they current?
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| **R**eliability/**R**elevance | * Is this article peer-reviewed?
* Is it a primary or secondary source?
* Can factual information be verified through footnotes or bibliographies to other credible sources?
* Based on what you already know about the subject, or have checked from other sources, does this information seem credible?
* Is the information presented factually, without bias?
* Does it use inflammatory or provocative language?
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| **A**uthority | * Is there an author of the work? If so, is the author clearly identified?
* Are the author’s credentials provided?
* If the author is affiliated with an organization, is there a link back to the organization’s page or a way to contact the organization or author to verify the credibility of the site?
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| **P**urpose/Point-of-View | * Is the primary purpose of the page to sell a product? To make a political point? To have fun? To paraody a person, organization or idea?
* Is the page free of advertising? If the page does contain advertising, are the ads clearly separated from the content?
* Is the site a comprehensive resource or does it focus on a narrow range of information?
* Is the information intended to inform, peruade, sell, entertain..?
* Does the author have a vested interest in the topic?
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What is the domain (i.e. .com, .org, .gov, .edu)?

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