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## Teach Learners How to Use Lateral Reading Combined with the CRAAP Test to Vet Info Sources

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**C** **Currency**  
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?
- Are the links functional?

**R** **Relevance**  
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 one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

**A** **Authority**  
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?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?  
examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

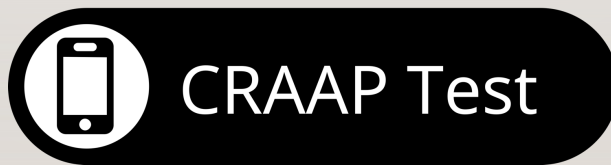
**A** **Accuracy**  
The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content

- 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?

**P** **Purpose**  
The reason the information exists

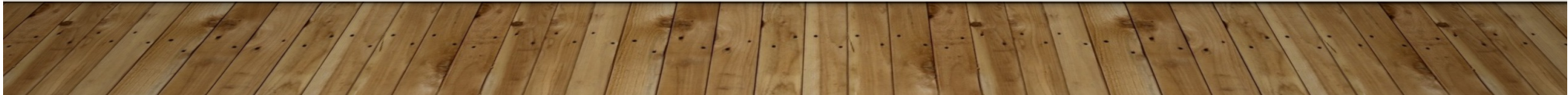
- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

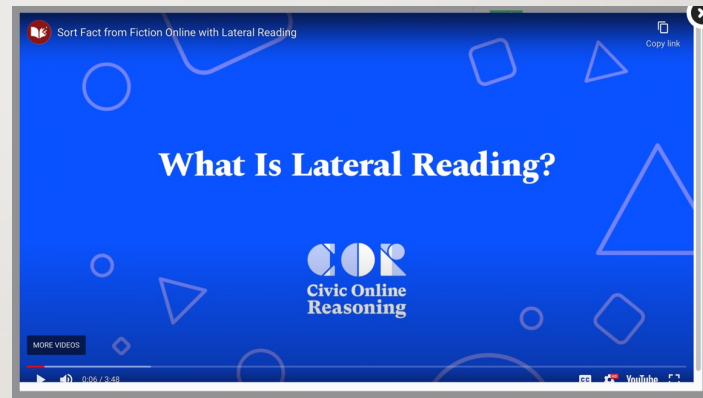
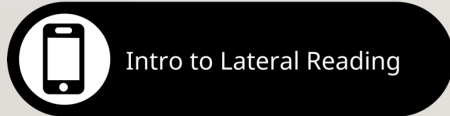
Adapted from the CSU Chico CRAAP Test for the UC San Diego Library



# STEP 1: EXPLAIN THE CRAAP TEST

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STEP 2: EXPLAIN LATERAL READING (OR SHOW A VIDEO).

## STEP 3: HANDS ON PRACTICE FOR LEARNERS

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- Have students split into pairs or groups.
- Exercise: Have students open the Wikipedia page for Jane Eyre (in English). Look at reference #4. Using the CRAAP test and lateral reading, what can you learn about this source? Would it be okay to use for an English assignment (for English majors)?
- Exercise: Visit this page: <https://features.propublica.org/navy-accidents/us-navy-crashes-japan-cause-mccain/> Using the CRAAP test and lateral reading, is this information reliable?



# THANK YOU!

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- This fall I plan on creating a “how to” video titled, “Wikipedia for English Majors” and uploading to YouTube. Interested? Email me: [Laurie.Bridges@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Laurie.Bridges@oregonstate.edu)