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

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STEP 1: EXPLAIN THE CRAAP TEST

**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?
- What 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/creator/source?
- 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 real address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

**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 author(s)/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
- 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?

**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?

CRAAP Test
Adapted from the EDC Online CRAAP Test by ACS. San Diego Library
STEP 2: EXPLAIN LATERAL READING (OR SHOW A VIDEO).
STEP 3: HANDS ON PRACTICE FOR LEARNERS

• 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 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!

• 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