



# DWIGHT MARVIN LIBRARY

Smart sources for research

Tuesday Tip of the Week

November 7, 2017

## Source Evaluation: Does it pass the C. R. A. P. Test?

Using inaccurate, irrelevant, or poorly researched sources can affect the quality of your own work. The CRAP Test is a list of questions that can help you decide if a source is right for your research. Below is an abbreviated list of questions to help with source evaluation.

- ✓ **Currency:** The timeliness of the information.
  - When was the source published?
  - Has it been updated or revised?
  - Are older sources appropriate for your research?
- ✓ **Relevance:** relates to your topic.
  - Does the source relate to your topic?
  - Who is the intended audience?
- ✓ **Authority:** the source the information comes from.
  - What are the author's credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)?
  - What qualifies the author to write about this topic?
- ✓ **Purpose:** The reason why something is done or used/ the intention of something.
  - Does the point of view appear impartial and objective?
  - Is the author presenting fact or opinion?
  - Is the author's language informal, joking, emotional or impassioned?



**Need Help?**

Ask a Librarian!

24/7

518.708.6600\*

Chat live now    Text a librarian

\*There is no fee to use the texting service, standard message rates apply.

For more information about source evaluation check out the library research guide:  
<http://hvcc.libguides.com/quickfacts/evaluation>

*Based on the CRAP test created by Dominican University Librarian Molly Beestrum.  
This document was prepared by Stephanie Clowe, Online Media Specialist.*