

# Evaluating Online Resources

Each of these topics is a popular mainstream topic. Select **one topic** and visit all of the websites listed below it. Apply the guidelines of the CRAAP Test to determine if the information on the website meets an **above-average expectation/standard of reliability for use as a source of information for an academic essay**. If the website does not meet reliability standards, indicate which features or qualities make it less than reliable. If the website does meet reliability standards, write a sentence or two describing the qualities or features that make it reliable. Be prepared to explain your findings to the class.

## Adoption

Meets    Does not meet

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

*CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.*

<http://www.gargaro.com/adoption.html>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.motherhelp.info/index.htm>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

[http://adoption.state.gov/adoption\\_process.php](http://adoption.state.gov/adoption_process.php)

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.adoption.com/>

## Diet & Nutrition

Meets    Does not meet

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*CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.*

<http://www.diet.com/>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.dietwatch.com/dietwatch/enrollment/index.asp?>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.atkins.com/>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.nutrition.gov/>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/diabetes-diet/DA00027>

## Global Warming

Meets    Does not meet

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*CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.*

<http://www.globalwarming.org/>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.climatehotmap.org/>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/default.asp>

\_\_\_    \_\_\_

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/news\\_room\\_detail.aspx?id=329353](http://www.pewtrusts.org/news_room_detail.aspx?id=329353)

## Gay Marriage

Meets Does not meet

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.

[http://www.balancedpolitics.org/same\\_sex\\_marriages.htm](http://www.balancedpolitics.org/same_sex_marriages.htm)

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.hrc.org/>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex\\_marriage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage)

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.bidstrup.com/marriage.htm>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/002/938xpsxy.asp>

## Grief

Meets Does not meet

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/cmhc/booklets/Grief/grief.html>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.griefnet.org/>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.hypnosisdownloads.com/downloads/hypnotherapy/dealing-grief.html>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://accessingyourhigherself.wordpress.com/sound-healing/>

## Civil War

Meets Does not meet

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

CRAAP Test Standards. Explain why or why not in the space below each URL.

<http://www.idiotica.com/cranium/encyclopedia/content/civilwar.htm>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.npr.org/2011/04/09/135247928/the-civil-wars-first-death-was-an-accident>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://www.shmoop.com/civil-war/facts.html>

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

<http://library.thinkquest.org/06aug/01591/facts-t.html>

# Evaluating Information-Applying the CRAAP Test

## Meriam Library, California State University-Chico

When you search for information you're going to find lots of it . . . but is it accurate and reliable? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the CRAAP Test can help. The CRAAP Test is a list of questions you can ask in order to determine if the information you have is reliable. Please keep in mind that the following list of questions is not static or complete. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need. So, what are you waiting for? Is your web site credible and useful, or is it a bunch of . . . ?!

### Evaluation Criteria

#### **Currency: *The timeliness of the information.***

When was the information published or posted? Has the information been revised or updated? Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? (Online) Are the links functional?

#### **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 using this source for a research paper?

#### **Authority: *The source of the information.***

Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic? Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address? (Online) Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: **.com .edu .gov .org .net**

#### **Accuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational 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 biased and free of emotion? Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

#### **Purpose: *The reason the information exists.***

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

(Online) indicates criteria is for Web only