YOUNG REPORTERS
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

FOUNDATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

The CRAAP Test

WHAT TO DO

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate and then rank each of the five parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable source, 10 = reliable source). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource in your research.

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- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? _____

- 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 reading/understand level? _____

- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? _____

- Would you be comfortable using this source for your research? _____

AUTHORITY
The source of the information ....

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? _____
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given? _____
- What are their credentials or affiliations? _____
- What qualifies the author 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 the source? _____

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 the author referenced? _____
- 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? _____
- Doe 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? _____
- Are there spelling, grammar or other typographical errors? _____

45 – 50 excellent source | 40 – 44 good source | 35 – 39 average source

30 – 34 borderline acceptable | below 30 – unacceptable

TOTAL