# The C.R.A.P. Test

Name:_____

*Grade all websites you intend to use for class projects using this rubric.*

**Website:  http://_____**

| Criteria | Evaluation Techniques | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **C**urrency<br><br>When was the information written & last updated? | • Is there a copyright or last updated date on the page?<br>• Are links broken (404 error)?<br>• Is it current enough for your topic? | There is no indication of when the site was created or revised. | The date given for the site's creation is over 3 years old; no date of revision or update. | The site has been created or updated within the last 3 years. | Created or updated less than two years. Sources referenced are current. |
| **R**eliability<br><br>Where did the author get this information? | • Does the creator provide links to sources for data or quotations? Do those sources seem reliable?<br>• Is the information accurate and error-free?<br>• Can the information be corroborated with another source? | No links to sources or works cited is given. | There is a general statement about the source of the information, but no specific links to sources or a works cited list. | There are links to sources or a works cited list. | There are links to sources or a works cited list. Information is corroborated with another source. |
| **A**uthority of Author<br><br>Who is responsible for the information? | • Is the author's name listed?<br>• Google the authors' names to learn more about the author.<br>• Can you figure out what makes the author an expert in this area (credentials*, known and respected)?<br><br>    **\* Credentials = education, work, and/or university faculty in this area, etc.** | The author is probably a student. Errors indicate the author is not an expert. | The author is unnamed and/or no credentials* are given. | The author is named but credentials* are incomplete. | Credentials* are given and indicate that author is an expert. |
| **A**uthority of Organization<br><br>Does the resource have a **reputable** organization behind it? | • Is there a reputable organization behind it? What is the organization's interest (if any) in this information?<br>• What is the domain (.edu,.com,.org,.net,.uk,.k12,etc)? Is the page hosted by an individual? (look for any of the following in the URL: %, ~, "users", "AOL", or "yahoo".)<br>• Search who owns the site using a "whois" search engine such as: http://whois.domaintools.com.<br>• Who else links to the site? Google command: "link:mchs.net" | An individual's page hosted by an Internet service provider (Comcast, yahoo, AOL, etc) or a .com site with no affiliation | Any of these:<br>· The home page is a K12, .com, .org, or unknown.<br>· The home page is a student folder on a .edu site. | A known business, professional association, organization, museum, or university sponsors the home page. | A government department or agency is the home page. OR<br>The domain is **.edu** and faculty maintains the site. |
| **P**urpose/ Point of View:<br><br>Does the information seem fairly represented, or is it biased? | • Scan the contents. Why was it written? (ex. information, advice, advocacy, propaganda, opinion, entertainment, commercial site, personal, news)<br>• Be able to spot point of view. Is the site fair and objective? Is it an advocacy site? Is the page affiliated with an organization that has a particular political or social agenda?<br>• Is there a conflict of interest? Does the web site producer stand to benefit from the information being provided?<br>• How important is balance? Is it required for your purposes? Is any bias explicit or hidden? Can you use the information? | The purpose is personal or too much advertising is distracting. | Purpose is to sell, persuade, or give a biased view. Some factual info. or useful pictures but focus is to promote something. | Offers some factual information. Sides unbalanced; some bias or advertising. | The purpose is to support scholarly research with factual information. Balanced coverage/without bias. |

---

### What does the score mean?

**Total Points =** [ ]

**12 to 15 pts** Excellent source for research

**8 to 11 pts** Good source for a research paper or academic project. **Confirm with other sources.**

**4 to 7 pts** Useful for ideas or casual projects. Do not cite as a reference for a research paper or project

**0 to 3 pts** Highly questionable source