Currency: The timeliness of the information

Is currency important for your topic? Is it a science, technology, or health-related topic?
Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?
When was the information published or posted?
Has the information been revised or updated?
Are the links functional?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs

Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
Can you find the same or better information in another source?
Is it the type of information needed? (i.e. background, statistics, primary source)

Authority: The source of the information

Who is the creator (author/source/publisher)? Is it an individual or an organization?
Are the creator’s credentials given? Can you determine the creator’s age, level of expertise, etc.? (Hint: Google the author or publisher to find out more)
Is the author qualified to write on this topic?
Is there contact information, address, or email?
Does the URL reveal anything about the source or author? (.com .edu .gov .org)

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

Where does the information come from?
Is the information supported by evidence? Do they cite their sources?
Has the information been peer reviewed?
Can you verify any of the information in another source or by your own knowledge?
Are there spelling, grammatical or typographical errors?

Purpose: The reason the information exists

Is the resource promoting something that might cause biases (like opinions or products)?
Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
If it is an opinion, is it based on logical thinking and good, credible evidence? Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checking for CRAAP</th>
<th>Highly Credible</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Not Credible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Currency:</strong> The timeliness of information</td>
<td>Less than 2 years old</td>
<td>Between 2-5 years old</td>
<td>More than 5 years old</td>
<td>No info on when resource was created/updated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance:</strong> The importance of the info for your needs</td>
<td>About my exact topic and the right type of info</td>
<td>Provides some of the information I need and the right type of info</td>
<td>Only mentions my topic briefly or not the type of info I need</td>
<td>Does not mention my topic at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authority:</strong> The source of the information</td>
<td>The creator’s credentials are given and he/she is an expert</td>
<td>Creator and credentials are known, but only some expertise</td>
<td>The creator is known, but credentials are unknown or questionable</td>
<td>There is no creator listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy:</strong> The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the info</td>
<td>All sources are cited, and sources are all current and reliable</td>
<td>There is a general statement about the sources used</td>
<td>There is a vague reference to the sources used</td>
<td>No sources are cited and there are lots of typos, misspellings, and grammatical errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> the reason the information exists</td>
<td>Purpose is to inform/educate. All opinions are based on factual, reliable evidence</td>
<td>Purpose is to educate. Opinions are mostly backed up with evidence</td>
<td>Purpose is to sell or promote something, but there is some factual information</td>
<td>Purpose is to sell or promote something. Opinions are not backed by facts, or facts are distorted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score:** ______________________

0 – 3 Points: Don’t use this source
4 – 7 points: OK, but try to find something better
8 – 11 points: Good source to use and cite
12 – 15 points: Excellent source to use and cite