The C.R.A.P Test:

Ask the following questions of each resource you are evaluating...

Currency: How recent is the information? Is it current enough for your topic? Can you locate a date when the resource was written/created/updated?

Reliability: What kind of information is included in the resource? Is content of the resource primarily opinion? Is it balanced or biased? Does the author provide citations & references for quotations & data?

Authority: Can you determine who the author/creator is? What are their credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)? Who is the publisher or sponsor of the work/site? Is this publisher/sponsor reputable?

Purpose/P.O.V: What is the intent of the article (to persuade you, to sell something, etc.)? For Web resources, what is the domain (.edu, .com, etc.)? How might that influence the purpose/point of view? Are there ads on the Web site or in the resource? How do they relate to the topic being covered (e.g., an ad for ammunition next to an article about firearm legislation)? Is the author presenting fact or opinion?

C.R.A.P test was created by librarians at Dominican University

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Tips for finding evaluative information about Web resources:

- Scan the perimeter of the page not just the article
- Search the rest of the site for information about authorship and purpose
- Check that links to other Web sites or articles and any listed references are accurate
- Search the Web to find out what others have said about the site or author
- Some evaluative information may not be available for the source you are evaluating. Ask yourself...why is this information not available and how does this affect the sources credibility?