Researching Your Topic

Directions: Research your topic to assess the availability of quality sources of information. Use these sources to find more information on your topic. Cite your sources using proper APA or MLA citation (for citation guidance refer to the Purdue O.W.L. or your library web site). Select ONE of the topics you brainstormed in the previous activity, and complete the following:

A. Use a search engine such as Google to search the web. *List at least two websites you found which contain information on your topic.*
   1. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Autumn_Festival
   2. chinahighlights.com/festivals/mid-autumn-festival.htm

B. Search a general or subject encyclopedia to get an overview of your topic. Use a library database such as Gale Virtual Reference Library, Statista, or Web of Science to conveniently locate articles from a wide variety of subject encyclopedias. *List at least two encyclopedia articles you found for your topic.*
   1. "Most popular flavors for mooncakes in china 2023"
   2. "Holidays. Around the World: Detailing More Than 3,400 Observances from All 50 States and More than 100 Nations"

C. Look for periodical articles by searching a general periodical database such as Academic Search Complete, JSTOR or Communication & Mass Media Complete. Databases are available through your library's webpage. *List at least two periodical articles you found for your topic.*
   1. "Games at the Mid-Autumn Festival in Kuangtung"
   2. "The Mid-Autumn Festival Lantern in Contemporary Hong Kong"

D. Evaluate the information within all the sources you found and identify the three BEST sources you found for your topic.

   1. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Autumn Festival
   2. chinahighlights.com/festivals/mid-autumn-festival.htm
   3. "Games at the Mid-Autumn Festival in Kuangtung"

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Evaluating Internet Documents-C.R.A.A.P. Test

When you search for information, you're going to find lots of it--but is it any good? You will have to determine that for yourself, and the **CRAAP Test** can help. The **CRAAP Test** is a list of questions to help you evaluate the quality of information you find. Different criteria will be more or less important depending on your situation or need, but all sources should be put through the **CRAAP Test.**

Currency: The timeliness of the information
- ☐ When was the information published or posted?
- ☐ Has the information been revised or updated?
- ☐ Does the date of publication or revision meet the timeliness needs of your topic?
- ☐ For an Internet source, are the links functional?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs
- ☐ Does the information relate to your topic or answer your research question?
- ☐ Who is the intended audience of this information?
- ☐ 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 deciding this is one you will use?
- ☐ Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

Authority: The source of the information
- ☐ Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor of this source?
- ☐ What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
- ☐ Is the author qualified to write on this subject matter?
- ☐ Is there contact information for the author, such as a publisher or email address?
- ☐ Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (e.g., .com, .edu, .gov, .org, or .net)

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content
- ☐ What is the source of the information?
- ☐ Is the information supported by evidence?
- ☐ Has the information been reviewed or vetted?
- ☐ Can you verify the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- ☐ Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- ☐ Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?

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

Directions:

1. Use a general Internet search engine such as Google to research "Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)."
2. Find two articles or sources on UFOs from the Web.
3. Write an APA citation for each article or source.
4. Evaluate each article or source using the C.R.A.A.P. test.
5. Write one paragraph in which you discuss the credibility of each of the two Web sources you found on the topic of UFOs, based on your C.R.A.A.P. test evaluations.

1. Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). Unidentified flying objects: What we know. Encyclopedia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/story/unidentified-flying-objects-what-we-know

2. Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, June 23). Unidentified flying object. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unidentified_flying-object

The Britannica site has no date but the wiki page has been updated very recently. Both are very relevant. Encyclopedia Britannica is a reputable source and I would say Wikipedia is as well. Both were written to inform

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