**Evaluating Sources: Stump your Neighbor!**

To test your skills evaluating sources, you will find some scholarly and non-scholarly sources, then see if your classmate can tell the difference.

**# step 1**

Create an account on [http://www.zotero.org](http://www.zotero.org). Use your university user name to make things easy.

**# step 2**

Join the Zotero Group Library for this class:

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/2300429/wlu-engl240-w19>

**# step 3**

Start your search. Using the library's search engine, the academic databases, or Google, find some articles on a topic related to Gawain or *The Buried Giant*.

**# step 4**

Once you've found a relevant source, add it to the Zotero Group Library using the green plus sign. Make sure you include the title, author, publisher, URL and other important information.

**# step 5**

Add at least two sources to the group library. One should be scholarly and one should not be (by your estimation).

**# step 6**

Share your articles with a neighbor. Take time to look at the article metadata as well as the article itself. Label each article as "scholarly" or "not-scholarly" by tagging it with your guess.

**# step 7**

Compare notes! Were you right? How could you tell? Was there ambiguity?

**CRAAP TEST**

**Currency**: the timeliness of the information

* When was the information published or posted?
* Has the information been revised or updated?
* Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
* 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 level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
* Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining 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?
* What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?
* Is the author qualified 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 source? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

**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 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 information exists

* What is the purpose of the information?
* 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?