

BCRAAP

Source & Information Evaluation Cheat Sheet

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▼ 1. BIAS

- Be aware of your prejudices.
You are often less critical of information you agree with.
- Are you provoked or engaged?
If the information triggers strong emotions, pay extra attention and think twice before sharing on social media
- SLOW DOWN: With a fast pace, it is easy to be fooled when scrolling on a small screen.

▼ 2. Currency: the timeliness of the information

- Why is it posted now?
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out-of date for your topic?
- Are the links functional?

▼ 3. 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 using this source for a research paper?

▼ 3. Authority: the source of the information

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?

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- What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
- Is the Source known to be trustworthy?

▼ **4. 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 biased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

▼ **5. Purpose: the reason the information exists**

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

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