**Is your research CRAAP?**

**C - Currency: The timeliness of the information.**

* When was the information published or posted?
* Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

**R - 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)?

**A - Author: The source of the information.**

**R** – Reputation: What do you know about the reputation of the author, the sources, and/or the publication?

**A** – Ability to observe: Is the author in a position that allows access to reliable evidence? If the article is about an event, did the author actually observe the event?

**V** – Vested Interest: Does the author have a personal stake in the topic or event? Would the author gain anything by lying? Would the author gain anything by telling the truth?

**E** – Expertise: Does the author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event? Is the author considered an expert in the field? Does the evidence come from a source that has expertise on the topic or event?

**N** – Neutrality: Is the author neutral about the issue or is bias evident? Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased?

**A - Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.**

* 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?

**P - 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?