



University of Idaho Library
Evaluation of Web Search Results: Wikipedia and the CRAAP Test

Name: _____

Class/Section: _____ Instructor: _____

Librarian: _____ Date: _____

The quality of information you find on the Internet varies greatly. You should evaluate Web sites as you do any information. Use the “**CRAAP Test**”: check **C**urrency, **R**elevance, **A**uthority, **A**ccuracy and **P**urpose. (Adapted from Meriam Library, California State University - Chico).

Write your own topic or keywords here _____

WEB SOURCE NAME AND URL (enough information so someone else can find it)	
Indicate type or format: e.g. journal article, website, blog, news site article, video, book excerpt	
CURRENCY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was this sources last updated? • What clues show this? • Is this date acceptable? 	
RELEVANCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? • Is the information at an appropriate level? 	
AUTHORITY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what you can find about the creator’s (or organization’s) knowledge, expertise, or “special interest” on the subject? • Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net 	
ACCURACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the language objective or opinionated? • Whether objective or opinion, is the information supported by evidence? • Does the information match any you have found? • Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? 	
PURPOSE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of the information? to inform? sell? entertain? persuade? • Do the authors/sponsors make their purpose clear? • Is there evidence of bias? • Overall, does this site seem worthwhile to use? 	

WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE EVALUATION: Go to the Wikipedia's web site at

<http://www.wikipedia.org>

Part 1: Find a suitable article:

1. Write down your topic: _____
2. Write the article title _____

Make sure the article is long enough to be useful for this exercise;

Part 2: Article Evaluation

Is the topic clearly explained? Please elaborate beyond yes or no.	
Are there any Wikipedia "clean up" notes at the top of the page? If so, what are they?	
Are there references and/or external links listed at the end of the article? How many? Do they look useful?	
Are there citations within the text of the article (these should link to individual references)?	
HISTORY: click on the "History" tab near the top Then click on (earliest). When was this article created?	
On average, about how often is this article edited?	
Approximately how many people have contributed to this article (maybe just a handful, maybe too many to count)	
Is there evidence of edit wars or arguments over content (for example, the same changes keep getting made then undone)?	
Is there evidence of frequent vandalism (many changes with edits that say "vandalism" or something similar)?	
DISCUSSION: click on the "Discussion" tab Are there any questions about the validity of this article?	
Does this article appear to be on a controversial topic	
Big Picture: Is this article a useful resource for doing research on your topic? Why or why not?	