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## Detecting CRAAP: Evaluating Information Sources

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These materials were designed to be used with Wright State University first-year students or faculty of first-year students to improve research skills.

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# Detecting CRAAP: Evaluating Information Sources

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES WORKSHOP - 2014

# Our “assignment”

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E-cigarettes: Research their safety and use in order to write an argument paper for ENG ----- on whether WSU’s policy on e-cigarettes is reasonable or not.

# CRAAP Test

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**Currency**

**Relevancy**

**Authority**

**Accuracy**

**Purpose**

# *Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs*

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Does the information relate to your topic / 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)?

# Relevance:

I would rate the relevance of  
*Public Health Focus > Electronic  
Cigarettes*

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Poor

0%

0%

0%

# *Authority: The source of the information*

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Who is the author/publisher/sponsor?

What are the author's credentials?

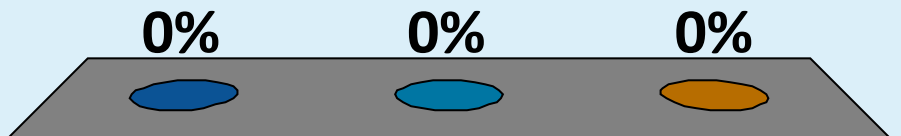
Is the author qualified?

Is there contact information?

What does the URL reveal?

# Authority: I would rate the authority of *Public Health Focus* > *Electronic Cigarettes*

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Poor

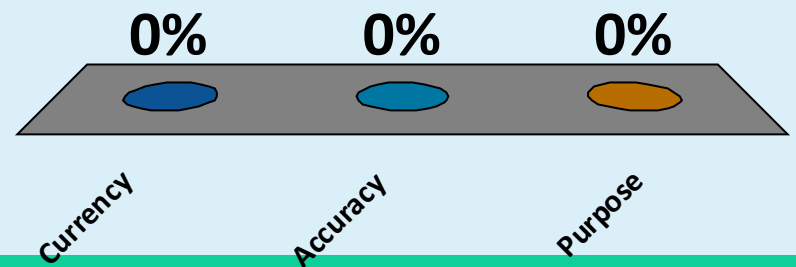




# Which criterion would you like to look at next?

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- A. Currency
- B. Accuracy
- C. Purpose



# *Currency: The timeliness of the information*

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Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

When was the information published / posted?

Has the information been revised or updated?

# Currency: I would rate the currency of *Public Health Focus > Electronic Cigarettes*

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1. Appropriate
2. Not important
3. Not appropriate

0%

0%

0%



# *Accuracy: Reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.*

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Where does the info come from?

Is it supported by evidence?

Has this been reviewed or refereed?

Will this be verifiable in another source?

Are the language and tone unbiased?

# Accuracy: I would rate the accuracy of *Public Health Focus > Electronic Cigarettes*

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Poor

0%

0%

0%



# *Purpose: The reason the information exists*

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What is the purpose of the information: inform, teach, sell, entertain, persuade?

Do the authors make their purpose clear?

Is the information fact, opinion, propaganda?

Is the point of view impartial?

Purpose:

I think the purpose of *Public Health Focus > Electronic Cigarettes* is to

1. Inform/teach
2. Sell
3. Entertain
4. Persuade/convince
5. Other

0%

0%

0%

0%

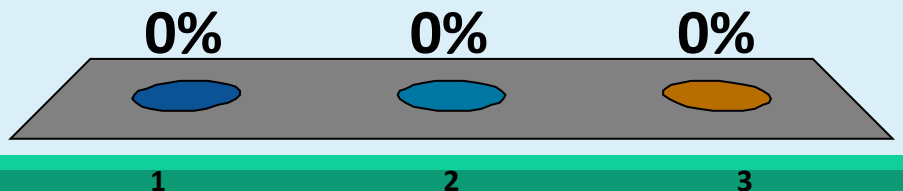
0%



# Can you cite this information source in your argument paper?

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1. Yes
2. No
3. I still have some questions about it.





## Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test

Adapted from the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico  
Source: [http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval\\_websites.pdf](http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.pdf)

**Instructions:** Use this worksheet to help you evaluate sources for a college assignment. If you found the source using a library database, you can have more confidence that your source will meet many of the criteria on this worksheet. If you have found the source using Google or Yahoo, you will need to carefully ask the questions under each of the five criteria:

- **Currency**
- **Relevance**
- **Authority**
- **Accuracy**
- **Purpose**

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

Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?	
When was the information published or posted?	
Has the information been revised / updated?	

**Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*

Does the information relate to your topic / 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)?	



**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 publisher or email address?	
What does the URL reveal about the author or source?	

**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?	
Will it be possible to verify any of the information in another source?	
Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion / advocacy?	

**Purpose:** *The reason the information exists.*

What is the purpose of the information? Some possible purposes: 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?	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluation Exercise

List 5 reasons why the website “Electronic Cigarettes Injury Lawsuits,” is not a credible source to use for a college course.

<http://www.yourlawyer.com/topics/overview/electronic-cigarettes>

There is a link to this website from our workshop guide:

<http://guides.libraries.wright.edu/DetectingCRAAP>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.