**The CRAP Test,** developed by Molly Beestrum, is a helpful tool to use when trying to decide if a website is a credible, valid source. The CRAP Test looks at four major areas: currency, reliability, authority and purpose. When determining whether a website is credible or not, evaluate it on those four areas. Here are a few suggestions to help you think through your evaluation process.

**Currency**

* How recent is the information?
* How recently has the website been updated?
* Is it current enough for your topic?

**Reliability**

* What kind of information is included in the resource?
* Is content of the resource primarily opinion?  Is is balanced?
* Does the creator provide references or sources for data or quotations?

**Authority**

* Who is the creator or author?
* What are the credentials? Can you find any information about the author's background?
* Who is the published or sponsor?
* Are they reputable?
* What is the publisher's interest (if any) in this information?
* Are there advertisements on the website? If so, are they cleared marked?

**Purpose/Point of View**

* Is this fact or opinion? Does the author list sources or cite references?
* Is it biased? Does the author seem to be trying to push an agenda or particular side?
* Is the creator/author trying to sell you something? If so, is it clearly stated?