Murphy’s Writing Center at Queens

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MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

**Evaluating Sources: C.R.A.A.P.**

Dear Murphy Students:

This is the age of *too much* information, of *too many* sources that tell you conflicting facts if not downright false. The challenge, then, is sifting through the information and finding the seashells in the sand.

One method for evaluating sources and confidently choosing ones you can trust is the **C.R.A.A.P. Test**.

*How Current* is the source?
- How old is it? When was it created, published, or posted?
- Has it been updated or revised?
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic?

*How Relevant* is the source?
- Does it relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?
- Is it not too simple or not too advanced for what you need?

*Who Authored* this source?
- Who created, published, or sponsored the source?
- What credentials does the author or organization have?
- Is the author or organization qualified to cover this topic?
- Can you find information about the author easily?

*How Accurate* is the source?
- Where does it come from? Does it have references?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has it been peer-reviewed?
- Can you verify the information with other sources or prior knowledge?

*What is the Purpose* of the source?
- What is the purpose of it? To inform? Teach? Sell? Persuade?
- Is the purpose made clear?
- Does it have a political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal bias? Is it fact, opinion, or propaganda?

When you want to evaluate a source, ask yourself:

Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session

1. Visit [https://murphy.mywconline.net/](https://murphy.mywconline.net/)
2. Register for an account
3. Log in and select the “QC Writing Center” calendar.
4. Choose any of the available white rectangles.
5. Fill out the form with your assignment info.

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**Method & Questions developed by Mariam Library California State University**

If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊