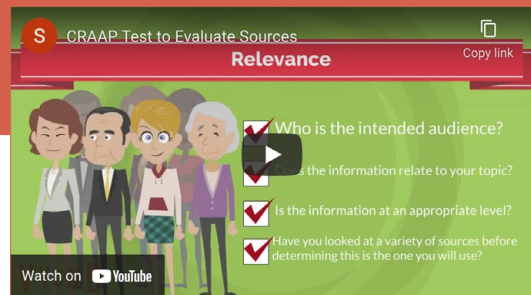# How to CRAAP Test a career website

There's a bucket load of career websites out there with all sorts of information. Some are great, some are OK, and some are pretty crappy, let's be honest. The CRAPP Test* (cool acronym huh?) is a basic checklist for you to decide if the information is useful, or crappy and a waste of your time.

Watch this video clip to see what the CRAAP test means

Watch the YouTube Video - CRAAP Test to Evaluate Sources here.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B2UCdmzZpM

CURRENCY

This means the information should be current. So look for:

- When was it posted?
- Is the content revised or updated?
- Is the post current or out-of date for your topic?
- Are the links working?

RELEVANCE

The information should be relevant for your needs. So look for:

- Does it relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who it's written for?
- How it's written, is it at an appropriate level (not too simple or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at other sources (websites, books etc) before deciding this is the one you will use?

Tasmanian Government

AUTHORITY

The information should come from an expert in their field. Look for:

- Is it clear who the author/publisher/source is?
- The author's qualifications or job title.
- Does it list which organisation they are part of? If yes, what are they?
- Is there any contact information on the website such as an address, phone number or e-mail address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source such as a .dot com, edu, .gov or .org address?

ACCURACY

Look at the reliability, truthfulness, and accuracy of the information. Ask yourself:

- Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?
- Are there obvious errors (spelling, grammar)?
- Is the information supported by evidence (such as research)?
- Have other experts reviewed or refereed the information?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?

PURPOSE

Look at the reason the information exists. Ask yourself:

- What is the purpose of the information? To inform? Teach? Sell? Entertain? Persuade?
- Does the point of view appear impartial?
- Are there political, cultural, religious, or personal biases?
- Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda?
- Do the authors make their intentions or purpose clear?

Did you know

You can also apply the CRAAP test to check the quality of any information you are seeking. You can use it when viewing websites of organisations, news stories, or social media posts.

Key Takeaway

The internet is a brilliant way to gather information. But don't believe everything you read. Some career websites are much better than others. If in doubt, do the CRAAP Test.