

Source Evaluation: Content and Appropriateness

Students will be given an evaluating sources handout (CRAAP test adaptation) and it will be discussed in class to introduce students to the topic. Students will be handed an assignment and journal or magazine article. In groups of 2-3, students will evaluate the given source using the evaluating sources handout as well as determining whether it fits the needs of their assignment. Students then report their findings to the class by providing a brief description of the resource, how it fits with their assignment requirements, and comment on the reliability of the information in the articles.

Example assignments

Assignment:

- Write an argumentative essay about violence against women from an international perspective.
 - Must use only scholarly sources
 - Must use at least one scholarly journal article
 - Must focus on current trends in the past five years

Assignment:

- Write an essay on the legalization of medical marijuana in California
 - No source restrictions (can use books, internet, magazines, newspapers)
 - Sources do not need to be scholarly but must be reliable- no opinion pieces, blogs, etc.
 - Must focus on current trends

Group Discussion Questions

1. Who is the author and what are their credentials?
2. Who is the publisher?
3. What is the publication date?
4. Does the author provide citations? If so, can you tell what types of sources were used?
5. Would this source meet the stated assignment requirements? Why or why not?