Teacher for Learning Module – Ontario Extend
Misunderstood Concepts Activity
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Evaluating Information Sources

One concept that is often misunderstood by my students during Information Literacy workshops is the idea of evaluating information sources before including them in their research assignments. Many think that just because an information source matches their keywords, or shows up in the first slot of a search results list, that it is the article they should choose. Often, however, that isn’t the case, and more work is needed to determine if the information source actually meets their information needs. Feedback I’ve received indicates that some students are still struggling with this important step in the research process. There are checklists and tools to be used, but I thought, why not explain the overall concept visually?

The approach I am going to try is using the analogy of a puzzle piece to explain how all of the various elements of what a strong information source should include fit together. The pieces would be labelled: currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose, following the CRAAP test model developed by Sarah Blakeslee and California State University, Chico Meriam Library (Meriam Library, 2010).



Figure 1 Puzzle. Image by [Gerd Altmann](https://pixabay.com/users/geralt-9301/?utm_source=link-attribution&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=image&utm_content=977236) from [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/?utm_source=link-attribution&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=image&utm_content=977236) . Licensed for reuse under [Pixabay’s license](https://pixabay.com/service/license/).

This image is a simplistic representation of my final idea. I plan on trying to animate the puzzle pieces and include labels as well as more information about each concept to explain each in more detail. I hope this analogy works a bit better with my students and that it helps them understand the importance of critically analyzing the information sources they choose to include in whatever research projects they are involved in.

References

Meriam Library. (2010, September 17). *Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test*. <https://library.csuchico.edu/sites/default/files/craap-test.pdf>