TRAAP Test Worksheet

**Timeliness:** the timeliness of the information. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

• When was the information published or posted?

• Has the information been revised or updated?

• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?

• If you are examining a website or online source, are the links functional?

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**Relevance:** the importance of the information for your needs. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

• Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?

• Who is the intended audience?

• Is the information at an appropriate level (for example, not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?

• Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

• Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

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**Authority:** the source of the information. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

• Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?

• What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?

• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?

• Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?

• If you are examining a website or online source, does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

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**Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

• Where does the information come from?

• Is the information supported by evidence?

• Has the information been reviewed or refereed?

• Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?

• Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?

• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

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**Purpose:** the reason the information exists. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

• What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?

• Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?

• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?

• Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

• Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

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