Use the **CRAAP Test** to determine if a web site is a reliable source of information. This works for other sources of information too!

**C**urrency: how current is the information? Are the links functional?

**R**elevance: is the information relevant to your needs?

**A**uthority: Who created the website & are they an expert regarding the topics covered on the website? .com vs. .edu, .org, .net, etc.

**A**ccuracy: Is the information on the website true? Correct? Reliable?

**P**urpose: Why was the website created? Is the information fact, opinion, propaganda or to sell something?

A reliable website includes information about the author(s) or organization posting the information and date(s) when the information was published on the web or last updated. Caution: some websites automatically update with the current date to appear up-to-date. Think twice about using a website if you cannot find author and publication information.

**A few words about Wikipedia:** Wikipedia is not a good source of information; however, the references at the bottom of some entries may lead you to reliable websites.

**A few words about YouTube:** If looking for a visual aid to use in a class presentation the criteria above can be used to determine if the video is from a reputable source.

**A few words about blogs:** Blogs, or weblogs, are 21st C. Internet developments and can be posted by anyone from a major newspaper reporter to your neighbor down the street. Blogs can be personal or professional in nature. Again, use the criteria above to determine if the blogger is a credible source.

**A few words about Google Advanced Search:** To limit your results to educational and governmental websites: go to [www.google.com/advanced_search](http://www.google.com/advanced_search). Type in your keywords in the search box and type ‘.edu, .gov’ in the ‘Search within a site or domain’ box.

If you don’t have time to worry about the reliability of websites, use the online resources available through GALILEO: [www.galileo.usg.edu](http://www.galileo.usg.edu)