

### **Tip #47 – Teach students to evaluate sources with online tutorials**

One of our professors asked me how students could improve their ability to evaluate sources. She particularly wants students to know how to narrow down sources, how to find out if a source is current, and how to determine if the source is respected and credible.

You can assign or encourage students to try the self-instructional online tutorials below on their own time.

#### **Or, incorporate these tutorial into in-seat, live instruction by:**

As a before-class assignment, ask the students to identify specific articles or books in the Cambridge College Online Library, or websites, that they are considering using for their individual research project

- Have the whole class go through the tutorial together, stopping to evaluate the specific examples that your individual students provided. You can go to the CCOL or web to look at the whole item
- If enough laptops are available, evaluation could also be done in small groups and then the results shared with larger groups
- Turn the large or small group experience into a game by asking each group to justify a good source and criticize a bad source, using the CRAAP criteria from the UWYO tutorial below:

#### **Start with Module 5 of this information literacy tutorial which covers the general topic:**

- Develop basic set of criteria for evaluating information sources.
- Know how to evaluate an author and publisher of a source.
- Know how to judge a source's usefulness, based on currency, content and relevance.
- Know how and why to pay closer attention to Websites and their evaluation.

A quiz delivers instant feedback

[http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/info\\_literacy/modules/module5/5\\_0.htm](http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/info_literacy/modules/module5/5_0.htm)

#### **Next, get specific criteria for evaluation from a section called the “CRAAP” test which stands for**

- Currency
- Relevance
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Purpose

The section concludes with a quiz that gives instant feedback.

<http://tip.uwyo.edu/evaluating/evaluating1.html>