The C.R.A.P. Test

Grade all websites you intend to use for class projects using this rubric.

Website:  **http://**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Evaluation Techniques</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **C**urrency       | • Is there a copyright or last updated date on the page?  
• Are links broken (404 error)?  
• Is it current enough for your topic?                                                                                                                                                                             | There is no indication of when the site was created or revised.    | The date given for the site's creation is over 3 years old; no date of revision or update. | The site has been created or updated within the last 3 years.     | Created or updated less than two years. Sources referenced are current. |
| **R**eliability    | • Does the creator provide links to sources for data or quotations? Do those sources seem reliable?  
• Is the information accurate and error-free?  
• Can the information be corroborated with another source?                                                                                                                                                           | No links to sources or works cited is given.                       | There is a general statement about the source of the information, but no specific links to sources or a works cited list. | There are links to sources or a works cited list.               | There are links to sources or a works cited list. Information is corroborated with another source. |
| **A**uthority of Author | • Is the author's name listed?  
• Google the authors' names to learn more.  
• Can you figure out what makes the author an expert (credentials, known and respected)?                                                                                                                                 | The author is probably a student. Errors indicate the author is not an expert. | The author is unnamed but credentials are given.                  | The author is named but credentials are incomplete.           | Credentials are given and indicate that author is an expert.     |
| **A**uthority of Organization | • Is there a reputable organization behind it?  
• What is the domain (.edu, .com, .org, .net, uk, .k12, etc)? Is the page hosted by an individual? (look for any of the following in the URL: %, ~, "users", "AOL", or "yahoo")  
• Search who owns the site using a "whois" search engine such as: http://whois.domaintools.com.  
• Who else links to the site? Google command: "link:mchs.net"  
• Scan the contents. Why was it written? (ex. information, advice, advocacy, propaganda, opinion, entertainment, commercial site, personal, news)  
• Be able to spot point of view. Is the site fair and objective? Is it an advocacy site? Is the page affiliated with an organization that has a particular political or social agenda?  
• Is there a conflict of interest? Does the web site producer stand to benefit from the information being provided?  
• Is there an error in the information?  
• Is there a conflict of interest? Does the producer stand to benefit from the information being provided?  
• Does the organization have a mission statement?  
• Does the site make any guarantees?  
• Does the site offer any assurances?  
• Does the site have a privacy policy?  
• Does the site avoid advertising or does it try to sell something?  
• Is the site current?  
• Is the site user-friendly?  
• Is the site easy to navigate?  
• Is the site well organized?  
• Does the site provide quality information?  
• Does the site provide context?  
• Does the site provide good links?  
• Does the site contain factual information?  
• Does the site provide reliable information?  
• Is the site focused?  
• Is the site user-friendly?  
• Is the site easy to navigate?  
• Is the site well organized?  
• Does the site provide quality information?  
• Does the site provide context?  
• Does the site provide good links?  
• Does the site contain factual information?  
• Does the site provide reliable information?  
• Is the site focused?  
• How important is balance? Is it required for your purposes? Is any bias explicit or hidden? Can you use the information?                                                                 | An individual's page hosted by an Internet service provider (Comcast, yahoo, AOL, etc) or a .com site with no affiliation | Any of these:  
• The home page is a .k12., .com, .org, or unknown, and NOT included in level 2 or 3.  
• The home page is a student folder on an .edu site.  
• A known business, government department or agency is the home page.  
• A professional association or organization, museum, a university sponsored home page or a domain of .edu and faculty maintain the site. | Purpose is to sell, persuade, or give a biased view. Some factual info. or useful pictures but focus is to promote something. | Offers some factual information. Sides unbalanced; some bias or advertising. | The purpose is to support scholarly research with factual information. Balanced coverage/without bias. |

What does the score mean?  

12 to 15 pts Excellent source for research
8 to 11 pts Good source for a research paper or academic project. Confirm with other sources.
4 to 7 pts Useful for ideas or casual projects. Do not cite as a reference for a research paper or project
0 to 3 pts Highly questionable source

Total Points =  ____