

The DAPPR Test

Points	3	2	1	0
<p>Date When was this information published? Is it out of date? If it's a website, has it been updated recently?</p>	The information is less than 5 years old	The information is older, but not necessarily out of date (some topics might not need extremely up to date info)	The information is clearly out of date for the topic	It is unclear when the information was published
<p>Author What are the author's credentials? What makes them an expert on this topic?</p>	The author has credentials that show they are an expert in this topic (they might have a degree in this field, work at a university, have experience with this topic, etc.)	The author is a qualified journalist, OR This information was written by a known organization (known = most people are aware of that organization)	The author is not an expert but has some knowledge in the topic (a student, a fan, a hobbyist)	It is unclear who wrote this information OR The author is not qualified to write on this topic
<p>Publisher Who or what published this source? Are they reputable and credible?</p>	Published by a scholarly journal, the U.S. government, or a University Press	Published by a known organization (such as the ACLU or the AARP), a university website, a reputable publishing house, a magazine, or a newspaper	Published by a K-12 school or an unknown organization (unknown = most people aren't aware of it)	Self-published (blogs, personal websites, fan sites, etc.)
<p>Purpose Why was this information published? Does it have an agenda or it is purely informational?</p>	To promote unbiased scholarship on this topic. Empirical research with unbiased sponsors is preferred	To provide factual knowledge on the topic to adults. Some opinion may be included	To sell something, persuade someone, promote an idea, or provide knowledge to children	For personal or entertainment purposes OR To mislead or promote propaganda
<p>Relevance Does this source contain well-researched information that directly supports your research and fits your information needs?</p>	The vast majority of this source contains in-depth, well-researched information on your topic	At least 50 percent of the source contains in-depth information on your topic	Only a small part of the source contains information on your topic OR Information is not well-researched	The source mentions your topic but doesn't spend more than a few words on it.

0-7 points - This source's information cannot be verified and should not be used in college-level research.

8-10 points - This source is a good starting point for background information, but should not be used as a source in college-level research. Be wary--this source may also have a biased agenda.

11-12 points - This is an okay source for research, but you may need to back up this source with additional research.

13-15 points - An excellent source for college-level research!

Note: the author and publisher information is especially important! Be careful using sources where the author or publisher score lower than 2.

Date

- Technology, medicine, & current events all need to be up-to-date. Sticking within 5 years is the general rule of thumb for these topics.
- Primary sources, historic information, or comparing prior knowledge to today's are exceptions to this.
- Be sure to check if a website has been updated recently.

Author

- Authors should be listed and have credentials in that field. If no author is listed, proceed with caution.
- Most government sites and some organizations will list the organization responsible for the information rather than an individual author. This is perfectly okay as long as the organization is reputable.
- It's always a good idea to do an Internet search for additional information on the author. This will allow you to find out what kind of knowledge the author has in this topic (degrees, work experience, etc.). Additional sources, such as book reviews, are another way to get information on the author.

Publisher/Website

- Visit the "About Us" page on every website you use to determine who is responsible for the site.
- If using a book, look up information about the *publishing house* (Penguin Press, University of Harvard Press, etc.) that published that book. Reputable publishing houses will have websites you can check.
- If using a scholarly journal article, look up information about the *journal* that published that source. Reputable journals will have websites you can Google.
- The domain can help you understand the website. Educational (.edu) and government (.gov) websites should be focused on for research.

Purpose

- The "About Us" on every website should give you an idea as to why it exists. You should see something along the lines of a mission statement. It will also give you an idea if the site is promoting anything that might cause biases (such as opinions, products, ideas).
- Opinion/persuasive writing can be okay as long as it contains facts and statistics. There should always be evidence (citations, links, etc.) listed to support any opinions. Avoid articles that contain emotional language.
- For college research, focus on websites whose purpose is to conduct scholarly research and improve academic knowledge. Websites devoted to informing the public with facts on current events or issues may also be used.

Relevancy

- Determine how relevant the source is to your topic--for a source to be relevant, a majority of the source should be on your topic, rather than just one or two paragraphs.
- The information should be appropriate for college-level research. This means it should be well-researched, with evidence and references to other sources.

Helpful Databases (Links on Library Website):

Gale Biography in Context (author info), EBSCO Academic Search Complete (book reviews), OneSearch Find Journals (journal info), Gale Academic OneFile Publications Search (journal info), Gale Literature Resource Center (author info & book review)

Helpful Fact-Checking Tools:

Snopes.com: Snopes is a highly regarded fact-checking website.

MediaBiasFactCheck.com: This is an independent online media outlet that examines the quality of media.

Helpful Print Tools (in half-bookcases area):

Contemporary Authors, Book Review Digest, and Magazines for Libraries.