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| **T**imeliness | Creation date of the info | Info can quickly become obsolete. Using facts that have been superseded by new research or recent events weakens your argument. | - When was it published or last updated?  
- Has newer info been published on your topic?  
- Are links or references to other sources up to date? |
| **R**elevance | Importance of the info | You’re expected to support your ideas with pertinent info. A source detailing Einstein’s marriage and family life would not be relevant to his theories in physics. | - Does the info answer your research question?  
- Does it meet the requirements of the assignment?  
- Is it too technical or too simplified for you to use?  
- Does it add something new to your knowledge of the topic? |
| **A**uthority | Source of the info | The credibility of an author's assertions can vary. In a trial regarding DNA evidence, a jury gives far more authority to what a genetics specialist has to say. | - Is an author listed? Are the author’s credentials listed?  
- Is the author affiliated with an educational institution or prominent organization? For websites, check the end of the URL/web address (the domain name). Examples: .edu, .gov, .org  
- Can you find info about the author from reference books or online?  
- Do other books or articles cite the author? |
| **A**ccuracy | Reliability & correctness of the info | When you use inaccurate info, you undermine your own credibility. | - Are there statements you know to be false?  
- Are there errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar?  
- Was it reviewed by editors or experts before it was published?  
- What citations or references support the author’s claims? |
| **P**urpose | Reason the info exists | Sources of info exist to educate, entertain, or sell a product or point of view. Some sources may provide inadequate, false or biased info. | - Why did the author or publisher make this info available?  
- Is there an obvious bias or prejudice?  
- Are alternative points of view presented?  
- Does the author omit important facts that might disprove a claim?  
- Does the author use strong or emotional language? |

*TRAAP acronym used courtesy of Meriam Library, California State University, Chico  
*Additional wording courtesy of infoLAB (https://gln.dcccd.edu/library/infoLab/index.html)