The TRAAP Test Worksheet

Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (and whether your professor would want you to!).

**Timeliness:** the timeliness of the information
- When was the information published or posted? ________________
- Has the information been revised or updated? ________________
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? ________________
- Are the links to other websites working? ________________

**Relevance:** the importance of the information for your needs
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? __________
- Is the information at an appropriate reading level? ________________
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? __________
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper? __________

**Authority:** the source of the information
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? ________________
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic? ________________
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? __________
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? ________________

**Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content
- Is the information supported by evidence? ________________
- Can you verify any of the information in another source? ________________
- Can you find sources cited or linked to the original source? ________________

**Purpose:** the reason the information exists
- What is the purpose of the information? ________________
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? __________
- Is the information fact? opinion? persuasion? ________________
- Are there any biases? Do they only support one point of view? __________

45 - 50 Excellent
40 - 44 Good
35 - 39 Average
30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable
Below 30 - Unacceptable

TOTAL: