

RAVEN Source Analysis

R – Reputation: What do you know about the reputation of the author, the sources, and/or the publication?

A – Ability to observe: Is the author in a position that allows access to reliable evidence? If the article is about an event, did the author actually observe the event?

V – Vested Interest: Does the author have a personal stake in the topic or event? Would the author gain anything by lying? Would the author gain anything by telling the truth?

E – Expertise: Does the author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event? Is the author considered an expert in the field? Does the evidence come from a source that has expertise on the topic or event?

N – Neutrality: Is the author neutral about the issue or is bias evident? Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased?

ONLINE SOURCE ANALYSIS

PAACE is a mnemonic you can use to help determine the credibility of a website.

Purpose and Content:

What is the purpose of the web page or site?

In your own words, briefly describe the purpose of the website. Is the website balance and objective, or biased and opinionated? How do you know? Does the website provide any means of contacting the author or webmaster?

Authority:

Who is the author of the website?

Does the author provide contact information?

What authorship clues does the url provide? (ex: .com, .gov, .edu) What are the qualifications of the author or group that created the site?

What else has the author written or produced?

Accuracy:

Is the information accurate?

Has the information been edited?

Is the information provided verifiable (does it cite sources)?

How does the information compare to what you already know?

Currency:

When was the website last revised, modified, or updated?

Is currency important to the type of information available on the web site? Explain.

Is the site well maintained?

Are links broken?

Design, Organization, and Ease of Use:

In your opinion, how does the website appear overall?

Is it well designed and organized?

Is it easy to read?

Are help screens available?

Is there a search feature or site map available?

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