

Presenters:

Brooke Duffy

Ashley Tschakert Foertmeyer

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Time to Let Go of Some CRAAP

Critical Reading and More in the Time of Algorithms and AI

01 Introduction ↘

02 Critique of CRAAP ↘

03 Critical Reading ↘

04 An Alternative ↘

05 Practical Examples ↘

Who We Are



Brooke Duffy
Reference & Instruction Librarian



Ashley Tschakert Foertmeyer
Reference & Instruction Librarian



History of CRAAP

History

CRAAP was originally adopted by libraries for collection development purposes. Specifically, it was used to select print materials based on the CRAAP checklist.

Around 2004, the CRAAP checklist was widely adopted as a teaching tool by librarians to help students learn how to evaluate sources.

Critique of CRAAP

#1

Retire “authority” for “expertise”

Critique of CRAAP

“In today’s information landscape, we think it is more useful to invert this relationship and consider the information object as the agent that is acting on the individual it finds.” (Bull et al., 2021)

#2

Adopt a “proactive approach” rather than a “reactive approach” to source evaluation



Critique of CRAAP

Integrate each student's personal experience and upbringing to elicit an answer to the critical question, "Why do I feel what I feel about this piece of information?" (Tardiff, 2022)

#3

Consider student experience and its influence on information



Critique of CRAAP

#4

Over-reliance of checklists to teach source evaluation can indicate a deficit mindset - thinking students aren't capable of complex critical thinking

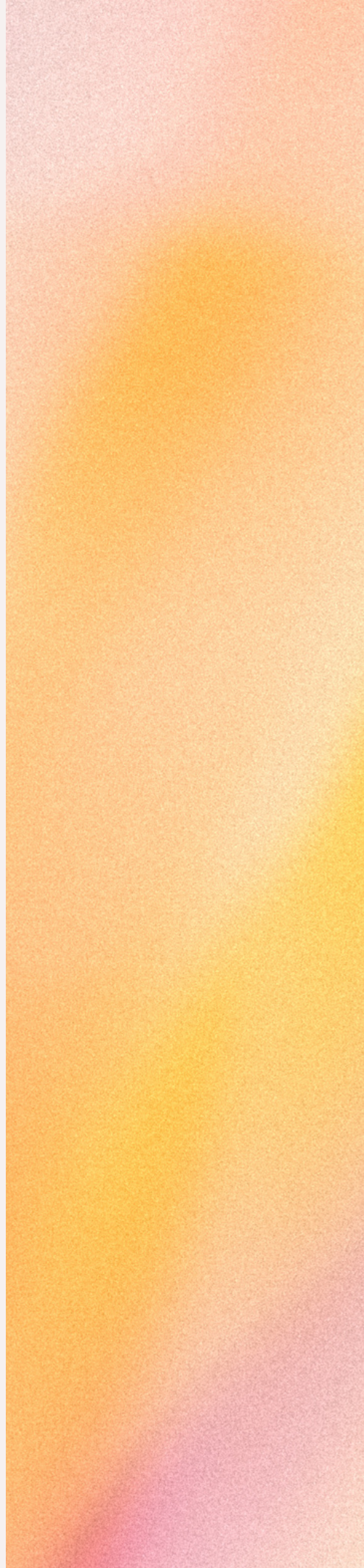


Synthesizing Alternatives into a New Framework



Utilizing TILT to Engage Student Learning

An Alternative: Adopting a Critical Reading Approach



Ask Questions of the Text

Heuristics (checklists) like SIFT, CCOW, and yes, even CRAAP, can be a valuable part of this process, as can other longer form questions like those listed in this resource by [Hunter College](#) ([Guidelines for Reading Non-Fiction](#))

Elements of Critical Reading

Skepticism Vs. Cynicism

Questioning the veracity of sources is valuable as long as skepticism doesn't lead us to be overly cynical about the credibility of trusted sources. Disbelief of verifiable information can be just as dangerous as believing in mis- or disinformation

Elements of Critical Reading

Be Aware of Bias, Including Our Own

Understand that sources written by humans are prone to bias. Sources generated or amalgamated by AI or algorithms tend to amplify the biases of society. In order to interpret these, we also need to be aware of our own biases and avoid confirmation bias.

Elements of Critical Reading

Understand the Basics of Information Systems

Just as we talk to students about source creation (i.e. the peer review process or how long it takes to write a news article versus a book), we now need to be discussing how AI and algorithms work as part of source evaluation.

Elements of Critical Reading

Takeaways to Continue Learning About Source Evaluation

There are a number of tools that we can introduce to students to help them engage with source evaluation beyond our classrooms. For example, News Literacy Project's newsletters, Rumorguard, UNESCO's MILClicks Instagram account. etc.

Elements of Critical Reading

01

Lateral Reading

02

Recent News Discussions

03

Google Fact Check Explorer

04

Evaluating AI Activities

05

Misinformation Susceptibility
Test

Practical Examples

RumorGuard

Get Smart About News

Newsletter from NLP



Condensed Critical Reading for One-Shots: Example

Questions?

Contact:

b.duffy@fdu.edu

a.tschakertfoertm@fdu.edu

Sources for Further Reading

Scan to
View Slides

