**TRAP Test**

Use the TRAP test to help you identify credible sources:

* **Timeliness:** This refers to the currency of the information.
  + When was the article published (can you find a publication date)?
  + Is the information current (meaning it is still valid) or out of date?
* **Reliability:** This refers to the usefulness of the information.
  + Is the information accurate and complete?
  + Is it primarily fact or opinion?
  + Are there references for the quotes and data?
* **Authority**: This refers to the source of the information.
  + Who is the author?
  + Is the author or organization qualified to speak on the subject? How do you know?
  + Does the author provide contact information or credentials? Why is this important?
  + Is the information sponsored? If so, is the sponsor or publisher reputable?
* **Purpose:** This refers to the reason for the information.
  + What is the purpose of the article (to present facts or to influence opinion)?
  + Based on the writing style, who is the intended audience?
  + For Web sites, what is the domain (.com = commercial, .gov = government, .org = organization, .edu = education), and how does this influence the point of view?