**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	+ Is the information current (meaning it is still valid) or out of date?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?