Evaluating Claims: Facebook Edition

Goal
Your goal is to determine the validity of a pseudoscientific or controversial claim.

Role
A Facebook friend of yours has posted one of the following claims. A debate ensues on the comment threads and your friend tags you to support him/her. You are unsure whether or not there is evidence to back it up.

- The Holocaust didn't occur – or the Holocaust, as generally reported and believed to be true, is a lie.
- 9/11 - the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center that occurred on 9/11/2001 - is a hoax or was a conspiracy orchestrated by the US government.
- The US did not land on the moon as reported in 1969.
- Intelligent Design – or the belief that a single intelligent creator designed the universe – is a valid scientific theory to explain the universe.
- Homeopathy can treat or heal sickness, illness, or disease.
- Vaccines cause autism.

Situation
You will be expected to find two sources that either support the claim or reject the claim. You will further be expected to explain how you came to your conclusion and why the sources you’ve consulted are credible.

Products/ Performances
You will briefly describe in class your sources that support or reject your friend’s claim, explain how you located them, and discuss why they are credible sources. Utilize the CRAAP test handout to assist you in your exploration.