

# Researching Your Topic

## 1. Read this passage. Is this passage from a reliable or unreliable source?

[www.blizzardsafety.org](http://www.blizzardsafety.org)

Blizzards: Causes and Consequences

Blizzards are severe snowstorms that last for a prolonged period and are characterized by strong sustained winds of at least 35 mph and visibility reduced by falling or blowing snow. They typically occur in the northern parts of the United States, although they can happen wherever the conditions are right.

Blizzards form when a region of high pressure, or cold air, is forced under a region of low pressure, or warm air. This process causes the warm air to rise and form clouds, leading to snowfall.

- It is reliable because it contains opinions and has a .com domain.
- It is unreliable because it contains sensational or exaggerated information.
- It is reliable because it contains factual information and has a .org domain.
- It is unreliable because it contains only opinions and lists no sources.

## 2. You are researching different types of clouds. Which keywords would be least effective?

- Shoes
- Atmosphere
- Cloud formation
- Cumulus clouds

## 3. You are researching about the planet Mars. Which keywords would be the most effective?

- Space, astronaut, planet
- Mars, space, facts
- Sun, stars, galaxy
- Earth, atmosphere, water

## 4. Read this passage. Is this passage from a reliable or unreliable source?

[www.nationalweatherservice.gov](http://www.nationalweatherservice.gov)

Thunderstorm: Formation and Stages

Thunderstorms are common worldwide and occur when moist, unstable air is lifted vertically into the atmosphere. They are associated with heavy rain, lightning, thunder, and occasionally, tornadoes and hail.

There are three stages in a thunderstorm's life cycle: the cumulus stage, the mature stage, and the dissipating stage. The mature stage is the most dangerous, with heavy rain, lightning, and sometimes hail. The National Weather Service provides severe thunderstorm warnings to alert the public of potential danger.

- It is unreliable because it has sensational or exaggerated information.
- It is unreliable because it contains opinions and has a .com domain.
- It is reliable because it has a .gov domain and includes facts.
- It is reliable because it has a list of sources to back up the facts.

**5. Read this passage. Is this passage from a reliable or unreliable source?**

www.snowballsecret.com

Blizzards: Nature's Biggest Snowball Fights  
 You won't believe this, but blizzards are actually caused by the Ice King, the ruler of winter! He decides when and where to have a big snowball fight, and then he just lets it snow everywhere.  
 Forget all that stuff about pressure systems and warm air meeting cold air. What really happens is way cooler!  
 And you know, there's this big refrigerator in the North Pole where they store all the snow for blizzards. But of course, nobody talks about it because it's a big secret.

- It is reliable because it contains a list of sources.
- It is unreliable because it contains a .edu domain and data.
- It is reliable because it contains factual information and has a .gov domain.
- It is unreliable because it contains sensational or exaggerated information.

**6. How do you know if you've collected enough data for your essay?**

- When you can't find any more sources on your topic
- When you run out of time and need to turn something in
- When you have a clear understanding of your topic and can explain it in your own words
- When you can write a certain number of pages

**7. How do you identify the best keywords to search?**

- By searching up a complete sentence
- By cutting out any adjectives
- By focusing on the who or what of your topic
- By focusing on the easy words

**8. Read this passage. Is this passage from a reliable or unreliable source?**

www.superhurricane.net

Super Duper Hurricane Protector  
 Hurricanes whip up strong kind of rain that would dre...  
 right? Now, scientists woul...  
 air pressure, water temper...  
 complex stuff. All you real...  
 they're bad, and you need...  
 Buy now!  
 Click below for 15% off!  
 Get my discount!  
 Luckily, we've got just the thing to help! Our Super Duper Hurricane Protector is designed to keep you safe, no matter how wild the weather gets. Think of it as your personal shield against nature's fury. Order it today!

- It is reliable because it contains facts and data only.
- It is unreliable because it has a pop-up and sensational information.
- It is reliable because it has a list of sources to back up the claims.
- It is unreliable because it has a .com domain and a pop-up.

**9. Which of the following is a common feature of an unreliable website?**

- Facts and data
- A list of sources
- Opinions
- A .org web domain

**10. Which of the following domains is most likely to be a reliable source?**

- .net
- .com
- .info
- .gov