

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# CHECK THE SOURCE

In "Understanding a New Virus" (p. 22), you read about the spread of a novel type of coronavirus. When events like the worldwide spread of the new coronavirus occur, many people begin searching the internet for information. While there is a lot of useful information available online, there is also plenty of information that is biased, inaccurate, or meant to cause strong emotions like panic, fear, or shock.

When you research a topic online, it's important to carefully analyze your sources to determine whether they are reliable. The guidelines below can help you determine whether a source about the novel coronavirus—or any other topic—is trustworthy. Go online and search for two sources that provide information about the coronavirus. Analyze the sources' reliability by answering the questions in the table.

QUESTION	GUIDELINES	SOURCE 1	SOURCE 2
Who created the website?	The end of a website address can help you determine who is responsible for it. Below are common website endings and what they mean: <b>.gov:</b> made by a government agency <b>.edu:</b> typically a college or university <b>.org:</b> an organization such as a nonprofit <b>.com:</b> used by many different types of companies and individuals		
What are the credentials of the people who created the website?	What qualifies the organization or individual to provide information on the topic? If an individual created the site, what is his or her education and experience? If possible, read the "About" section of a website to find out more about who created it. (Note: This can often be found by scrolling to the bottom of the site.)		
What is the site's purpose?	Does the site exist to inform, entertain, sell you something, or upset you? For example, a company trying to sell a product may present biased information as news. Websites that are meant to inform tend to use neutral language and focus on evidence.		
Is the site up-to-date?	Search for the date the webpage or site was last updated. Older sites may no longer have accurate information. Broken links, spelling mistakes, and other errors are signs the site may not be trustworthy.		
Is the information supported by evidence from other reliable sources?	You should always rely on more than one source for information. If the information presented on one source is very different from that on other reliable ones, you should be more skeptical.		
<b>RELIABLE OR NOT?</b>			

**KEY FACTS:** If you decide either or both of your two sources are reliable, record 3-5 pieces of important information you found on a separate sheet of paper.