

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

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### Example: Judging Credibility

#### Background

A leading global research centre on climate change in England revealed that hackers had stolen data from its server. The hackers stole more than a decade of correspondence between leading British and U.S. scientists, and posted a selected group of emails and documents on different websites.

Skeptics of climate science believe that the e-mails and documents reveal that some scientists have overstated the case for global warming and have manipulated temperature data. Bloggers allege that one e-mail from Dr. Susan Green, the head scientist at the research centre, suggests that the reality of current weather temperatures around the world contradicts scientific claims about global warming.

#### Primary Account

Below is a fictional letter that Dr. Green sent to the media in response to charges that she manipulated temperature data.

December 4, 2009

Concerned citizens of the "Climate Debate"

The e-mail that has been posted by bloggers recently is genuine, but it has been taken out of context and is merely an attempt by anti-climate change Neanderthals to discredit the realities of climate change for their own evil purposes. I have never tried to skew research to promote my position on climate change. I am a scientist first, and all of the data that we have collected over the past decade clearly state that climate change is real.

I have written my own article questioning the reality of global warming. In my hometown we have broken records the past two days for the coldest days on record. We set the record for the coldest day and the average daily temperature over the past two weeks has been seven degrees Celsius below normal.

The fact is that our data cannot account for the lack of warming at the moment, but the data are surely wrong because of inadequacies in our observing system. Global warming is continuing, despite random temperature variations that would seem to suggest otherwise. Although we don't have an adequate observing system, there are [other kinds of signs aside from global average temperatures](#) [hyperlink](#)—including melting of Arctic sea ice and rising sea levels. Despite what the climate vandals will tell you, global warming is continuing.

Truthfully and scientifically yours,

Dr. Susan Green  
Head Scientist