

Name _____



Credibility Clash

Directions: Read both passages below carefully. Compare how the expert and non-expert present information about the same topic. Decide which passage is **more credible** and explain why in 2-3 sentences. Use clues such as the author's background, use of evidence, tone, and level of detail.

Passage A - Expert

Dr. Maria Lopez, a neurologist at Stanford University, has studied the effects of sleep on memory for over 15 years. In a 2022 lecture, she explained that during deep sleep, the hippocampus communicates with the neocortex, helping to store new information as long-term memory. Her research team used brain scans and EEG tests on more than 200 participants, finding that those who slept 7-9 hours recalled information 30% better than those who slept fewer than 5 hours. She concluded that adequate sleep is essential for learning and academic performance.

Passage B - Non-Expert

On his personal blog, college student Jake Turner wrote a post in 2022 about how he studies for exams. Jake shared that pulling all-nighters "works best" for him because he feels more focused late at night. He admitted he sometimes drinks four cups of coffee to stay awake and once fell asleep during a test the next morning. While he acknowledged that teachers warn against all-nighters, he believes every student has to "find their own system" for success.

Which passage is more credible? _____

Explain your reasoning in 2-3 sentences.
