Name _____

Domain Detectives

Directions: Read the passage and notice the four different websites listed at the end. Use the website domains (.gov, .edu, .org, .com, etc.) to help you evaluate which sites are likely to be **more reliable** and which are **less reliable**. Rank the websites from **most credible (1)** to **least credible (4)**. Explain your reasoning for each ranking in 1-2 sentences.

Students at Westview High School are preparing research papers on renewable energy. Their teacher reminded them that choosing reliable sources is just as important as writing strong arguments. While searching online, the students found several websites with information about solar power. Some of the sites looked very professional and included detailed data, while others seemed less trustworthy and were mainly focused on advertising products. To decide which sites to use, the students learned to check the **URL domain** as a quick clue to credibility. Domains like *.gov* and *.edu* are usually linked to government or educational institutions, while *.org* can be reliable but sometimes biased, depending on the organization. Commercial domains like *.com* can have useful information but often prioritize selling something.

A. **www.energy.gov/solarpower** - U.S. Department of Energy page with research data and official statistics.

B. **www.bestsolarpanels.com** - Commercial site selling solar panels with testimonials and product descriptions.

C. **www.greensolutions.org/brightfuture** - Environmental nonprofit site promoting renewable energy use, includes campaign information.

D. **www.solarclassroom.edu/projects** - University site with student-led solar energy experiments and findings.