Is it Real Science or Pseudoscience?

Background
We gain advances in science and technology based on passing along scientific knowledge acquired through the use of the scientific method. Scientific findings are published after experiments and observations, however, how do we know if we should rely on the information published? This lesson will help you to distinguish between good information and unreliable information.

Pre-lab Questions
List something that you have always wondered about the existence of, how it works, where it can be found, or how our lives benefit from its existence. This can be something that you question from TV or a movie, something a friend or family member told you or something you saw. How can you find out the answer to your question?

Objective
In this lesson, you will investigate how to determine if information gained through media research is valid and credible in furthering our knowledge of scientific phenomena (how the world works).

Procedure
1. Watch the first 30 minutes of the documentary.
2. On Video 3-2-1 Analysis form, record three things you found out, two things you found interesting, and one question you have about the documentary.
3. Discuss your observations with the class (after discussing with your group).
4. Review the “Carl Sagan Baloney Detection Kit” handout. Your teacher will discuss the steps with the class. Afterwards, use the “kit” to analyze the documentary you just watched with your assigned group. Have the recorder document your input.
5. Form a conclusion and justify your stance in a fully developed paragraph citing your references.