Trace the Evidence

Search strategically and check what each source can prove.

10.RL.22 "Use a variety of search tools and research strategies to locate credible sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three different search tools or source-finding sites, circle Nia's narrowed search phrase, and number two checks she makes before trusting a source.

Would Shade Cool the Courtyard?

1 When the student council proposed adding shade to the school courtyard, Nia wanted evidence that the change could reduce heat. She began with a broad web search for "hot schoolyard." The results mixed playground ads, opinion posts, and research about several kinds of heat. Nia narrowed her search to "schoolyard pavement surface temperature shade study" in her public library's research database. She found an article that described how researchers measured pavement temperatures in sun and shade. The database helped her locate the article, but its place in a database alone did not prove its claims.

2 Next, Nia used the city website's search box to find a nearby weather station's daily records. Those records reported air temperature, not the surface temperature a student might feel through shoes. She checked the station's location and the dates of its readings before deciding whether the records could describe conditions near her school. She also searched the school district's online facilities files for the courtyard plan, which showed where shade structures were scheduled for installation. That plan could establish the proposed location, but it could not show how much cooler the pavement would become.

3 A popular post claimed that adding shade lowers pavement temperature at every school by ten degrees. Instead of repeating it, Nia opened the article from the library database and looked for its author, publication date, measurement method, and links to the original study. She then searched the study title in another search engine to see whether a university or journal hosted the same work. The study measured one site under specific conditions, so its results could not prove the post's universal claim. Nia planned to cite the study for its limited findings and the district plan for local details.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which search tool and exact search phrase helped Nia find research about pavement and shade?

2. Where did Nia find air-temperature records, and what two details did she check before using them?

3. Which online source could confirm where the shade structures were planned? What could it not establish?

4. How did Nia search beyond the popular post to check its claim, and what limit did she find?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In three sentences, plan research into whether later school start times affect teen sleep. Name two different search tools, give a specific search phrase for each, and state one credibility check and one useful piece of information for each source.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Evidence

GRADE 10 · 10.RL.22

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three different search tools or source-finding sites, circle Nia's narrowed search phrase, and number two checks she makes before trusting a source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which search tool and exact search phrase helped Nia find research about pavement and shade?	**She used the public library's research database and searched for "schoolyard pavement surface temperature shade study."**
2	Where did Nia find air-temperature records, and what two details did she check before using them?	**She found weather station records through the city website and checked the station's location and the dates of its readings.**
3	Which online source could confirm where the shade structures were planned? What could it not establish?	**The school district's online courtyard plan showed the planned locations, but it could not establish how much cooler the pavement would become.**
4	How did Nia search beyond the popular post to check its claim, and what limit did she find?	**She searched the study title in another search engine to see whether a university or journal hosted it. The study measured one site under specific conditions, so it could not support a claim about every school.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would search a library research database for "teen sleep duration later school start time study" and check a study's methods to see whether its sleep measurements support a general claim. I would search my school district's website for "high school bell schedule 2026" and check the page's date to confirm the current local schedule. The study could offer evidence about sleep, while the district page could establish our starting time.

Accept equivalent search phrases and checks in Part 3 if each fits its named tool and helps locate or assess a relevant source. Students should distinguish evidence about sleep from information about a local schedule.