Trace the Story

Research notes that respect people and sources

7.RL.23 "Implement ethical guidelines while finding and recording information from a variety of primary, secondary, and digital sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions Lila takes to protect people, circle at least three details she records to help readers find her sources, and number the interview, newspaper, and city webpage in the order she uses them.

Reporting on a Creek Cleanup

1 When Lila researched a Saturday cleanup at Willow Creek, she wanted more than a dramatic headline. At the event, she asked a volunteer, Amir, if she could record his words. He agreed to an interview but asked her not to publish his last name. Lila wrote the date and his first name beside her notes. She put quotation marks around the sentences she copied exactly and marked her own summary separately. Amir's account gave her a firsthand view, but one person's memory could not show how much trash the whole group collected.

2 At home, Lila read a newspaper story about the cleanup. The reporter had interviewed several people and explained why the creek mattered to nearby residents. Lila noted the reporter's name, the newspaper, and the publication date. Then she opened the city parks department's webpage, which listed the number of filled trash bags. She copied the page title, web address, and date she viewed it into her research log. She checked that the page belonged to the city rather than trusting a screenshot with no source.

3 A classmate sent Lila a photo from the event. It showed a younger child holding a sign with a phone number for volunteers. Lila did not add the image to her report because she had not asked the child or a guardian for permission, and the number was visible. She described the cleanup in her own words instead. In her final paragraph, she credited the interview, the newspaper, and the city webpage. She did not claim that she had counted the bags herself.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. If Lila uses Amir's exact words, how can she show they are his while honoring his request?

2. Which source should Lila use for the number of filled trash bags? Why is Amir's account not enough?

3. What information did Lila record to help a reader find the newspaper story?

4. If Lila finds a screenshot of the city's bag count with no source shown, what should she do before using the number?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

You are researching a school garden harvest using a gardener's interview, a library magazine article, and a school website post. In four sentences, explain how you would seek permission, check a claim, record where your information came from, and protect someone's privacy.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Story

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.23

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions Lila takes to protect people, circle at least three details she records to help readers find her sources, and number the interview, newspaper, and city webpage in the order she uses them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	If Lila uses Amir's exact words, how can she show they are his while honoring his request?	**Put his exact words in quotation marks and identify him by his first name, without publishing his last name.**
2	Which source should Lila use for the number of filled trash bags? Why is Amir's account not enough?	**Use the city parks department's webpage, which lists the number. Amir offers one person's memory, not a count for the whole group.**
3	What information did Lila record to help a reader find the newspaper story?	**She recorded the reporter's name, the newspaper, and the publication date.**
4	If Lila finds a screenshot of the city's bag count with no source shown, what should she do before using the number?	**Find the city parks department's webpage, check that it belongs to the city, and record its title, web address, and viewing date.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the gardener's permission before recording an interview and respect any limits on using their name. I would compare a harvest total on the website with the gardener's account and report any difference instead of guessing. I would log the interview date, the magazine's author, title, and date, and the website's title, address, and viewing date. I would leave out a student's private contact details even if they appeared in my notes.

Accept other reasonable ways to credit Amir without using his last name. For Part 3, look for four sentences that address permission, checking a claim, source records, and privacy.