Trace the Claim

Check sources, protect privacy, and give credit.

8.RL.22 "Apply 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 the details Mina records to help others find her sources. Circle one detail she keeps private, and number two reasons she questions the website's claim.

When Did the Garden Begin?

1. To investigate when the school garden began, Mina visits the town archive. An archivist lets her read a 2012 letter from garden organizer Elena Cruz to the principal. Cruz describes students planting the first beds that spring. The archivist says Mina may quote short parts with credit, but she may not post an image of the entire letter. Mina writes down the letter's author, date, recipient, and archive location. The page also lists Cruz's home phone number, which Mina leaves out of her notes because it is private.

2. Next, Mina checks a 2020 local history book called Growing Our Town by historian Aaron Bell. Bell writes that the first planting happened in 2012 and cites the garden letter in his notes. Mina records Bell's name, the book title, its publication year, and the relevant page number so another reader could find the claim. She puts Cruz's exact words in quotation marks when using them, but writes Bell's explanation in her own words and still credits him. Changing the wording does not make Bell's idea her own.

3. At home, Mina finds an unsigned website post claiming that the garden opened in 2009. The post provides no source for the date, and its 2024 upload date tells Mina only when the post appeared online. She saves its web address, page title, and access date, then labels the 2009 claim unconfirmed. Before using the claim, she would seek a dated record from 2009 or a reliable source that explains its evidence. In her report, she uses the supported 2012 date and credits both the letter and Bell's book.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which details does Mina record so a reader can find Cruz's letter? Which detail does she leave out to protect privacy?

2. What does the archivist allow Mina to do with the letter, and what use does the archivist rule out?

3. If Mina writes Bell's explanation in her own words, how should she give credit? What book details does she record?

4. Why should Mina not report the website's 2009 claim as fact? What evidence would she seek before using it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

You are researching a neighborhood mural. An artist's interview transcript gives the year it was painted and her private email address; a museum webpage summarizes the interview, names its writer, and links to the transcript. In 3 to 4 sentences, explain how you would check and record information from both sources, protect privacy, and credit a quotation or paraphrase.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Claim

GRADE 8 · 8.RL.22

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the details Mina records to help others find her sources. Circle one detail she keeps private, and number two reasons she questions the website's claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which details does Mina record so a reader can find Cruz's letter? Which detail does she leave out to protect privacy?	**She records the author, date, recipient, and archive location. She leaves out Cruz's home phone number.**
2	What does the archivist allow Mina to do with the letter, and what use does the archivist rule out?	**Mina may quote short parts with credit, but she may not post an image of the entire letter.**
3	If Mina writes Bell's explanation in her own words, how should she give credit? What book details does she record?	**She must still credit Bell. She records his name, the book title, publication year, and relevant page number.**
4	Why should Mina not report the website's 2009 claim as fact? What evidence would she seek before using it?	**The unsigned post gives no source, and its upload date does not prove when the garden opened. She would seek a dated record from 2009 or a reliable source that explains its evidence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would follow the museum page's link to check its summary against the artist's interview. I would record identifying details available on the transcript, along with the webpage's writer, title, address, and my access date. I would leave the artist's private email address out of my notes. If I quoted the artist or paraphrased the museum writer, I would name the source of each and use quotation marks around the artist's exact words.

Accept other source details that would help a reader find the letter or book. For Your Turn, look for a check against the interview, retrievable source notes, protection of the private email address, and credit for borrowed words or ideas.