Source Smart Moves

Evaluate evidence before it enters your draft.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.8 "Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each search move, circle each clue Maya uses to judge a source, and number the steps she takes to use information ethically in her report. These marks show how research choices shape a trustworthy, focused answer.

Researching Cool Roofs

1. For a report on whether a city should pay for cool roofs on public buildings, Maya begins with a focused question: How much can reflective roofs lower summer energy use in Phoenix? She searches the city's climate plan, the U.S. Department of Energy website, and Google Scholar. Quotation marks around "cool roofs" keep those words together; adding Phoenix and energy use narrows results. She also tries site:.gov cool roofs Phoenix and filters scholarly results to recent years. A roofing company's advertisement appears first, but Maya does not treat its sales claim as evidence. Its goal is to sell roofs, not to provide neutral research.

2. Next, Maya compares what each source can answer. The city climate plan explains Phoenix's heat priorities and current policies, so it is useful for local context but not for measuring roof performance. A Department of Energy page describes how cool roofs reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat. It is authoritative and directly related, but its national information may not predict Phoenix's savings exactly. A peer-reviewed study found through Google Scholar can provide methods and data. Maya checks its publication date, research setting, and author affiliations before using it.

3. To write her report, Maya does not stack facts from every source. Instead, she chooses details that answer her question. After explaining Phoenix's heat concern, she paraphrases the Energy Department's explanation in her own sentence and adds a citation: Cool roofs reflect more sunlight than dark roofs, reducing the heat absorbed by a building (U.S. Department of Energy). She uses a short quotation only when the exact wording matters and puts quotation marks around it. Her Works Cited page gives full publication details for every source she actually used. This selective approach supports her point without interrupting the report's flow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name one advanced search move Maya uses and explain how it improves her results.

2. Which source does Maya choose for local context, and why is that source limited for measuring roof performance?

3. What three details does Maya check before using a peer-reviewed study?

4. Describe two ways Maya avoids plagiarism when she uses information from the Department of Energy.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school or community research question. List two authoritative sources, an advanced search string, and one usefulness or limitation for each; then write a two-sentence mini-model that paraphrases one source, uses an MLA-style parenthetical citation, and explains why the other source cannot support a particular claim.

Source Smart Moves

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each search move, circle each clue Maya uses to judge a source, and number the steps she takes to use information ethically in her report. These marks show how research choices shape a trustworthy, focused answer. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name one advanced search move Maya uses and explain how it improves her results.	**She uses quotation marks around "cool roofs" to search for that exact phrase, or she adds Phoenix and energy use to narrow the results. She also uses site:.gov to find government sources or filters scholarly results to recent years.**
2	Which source does Maya choose for local context, and why is that source limited for measuring roof performance?	**She uses the city climate plan for local context because it explains Phoenix's heat priorities and policies. It does not measure how well roofs perform.**
3	What three details does Maya check before using a peer-reviewed study?	**She checks the publication date, the research setting, and the author affiliations.**
4	Describe two ways Maya avoids plagiarism when she uses information from the Department of Energy.	**She paraphrases the information in her own sentence and includes a citation. When exact wording matters, she uses a short quotation and puts quotation marks around it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Research question: How can a school district reduce lead in drinking water? Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities," offers testing and corrective-action guidance; a local water utility's annual Consumer Confidence Report offers system-level data but cannot establish conditions at every school faucet. Search string: site:.gov "lead in drinking water" schools testing. Mini-model: The EPA's 3Ts guidance recommends that schools test drinking water and use the results to plan corrective actions (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). I would use the local water utility's report for system-level data, but not to claim that every school faucet is safe because system-level data cannot establish conditions at every faucet.

Accept equivalent advanced searches, authoritative sources, and accurate usefulness judgments when students explain their reasoning. In the mini-model, look for selective paraphrasing, a parenthetical citation, and a specific limitation tied to the research claim.