

Smart Shopper Sources

Compare information before you decide what to buy.

SS.8.FL.2.1 “Explain why when deciding what to buy, consumers may choose to gather information from a variety of sources. Describe how the quality and usefulness of information provided by sources can vary greatly from source to source. Explain that...”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline information that comes from a source, and circle wording that shows whether the information is useful, limited, or possibly misleading. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three different sources Maya uses.

Maya Checks the Evidence

- ① Maya needs a new backpack for school and weekend hiking. Before spending money, she lists what matters: a padded laptop section, water resistance, comfort, and a price she can afford. One store website gives dimensions, materials, return rules, and the listed price. A manufacturer’s page explains its warranty and care directions. These sources help Maya compare basic facts, but each source has a purpose. The store wants sales, and the manufacturer wants customers to choose its product.
- ② Maya also reads an independent review from a consumer magazine. It reports that the reviewer used the backpack on a rainy walk, measured its storage space, and compared it with similar models. Then Maya scans customer reviews. Several buyers describe straps after months of use, which the magazine test did not cover. However, one review only says, “Awesome bag!” and gives no details. Another complaint may reflect a single damaged item. Maya looks for repeated, specific evidence rather than trusting one opinion.
- ③ An ad on social media claims the backpack is “normally \$120, now \$45,” but it does not name the earlier seller or show when that price was charged. The ad also says “the toughest backpack ever,” without test results or a clear meaning for toughest. Such claims may be designed to make shoppers act quickly, not to inform them accurately. Maya checks the price at several sellers, reads the return policy, and seeks reviews that explain how the bag was tested. She decides not to share the ad as reliable information.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why does Maya use store and manufacturer pages along with other sources instead of relying on only one source?

2 What makes the consumer magazine review more useful than the customer review that says, "Awesome bag!"?

3 What two details are missing from the social media ad's discount claim that make Maya question it?

4 Name two actions Maya takes to check the backpack information. Explain how those actions help her make a better decision.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a product you might buy. Complete the table with three different sources you could use, the information you would seek, and how you would judge whether each source is useful or possibly misleading.

SOURCE	INFORMATION TO SEEK	HOW I WILL JUDGE IT

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline information that comes from a source, and circle wording that shows whether the information is useful, limited, or possibly misleading. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three different sources Maya uses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Maya use store and manufacturer pages along with other sources instead of relying on only one source?	Different sources provide different information, such as price, materials, warranty, testing, and long-term use. Store and manufacturer pages also have a purpose of making sales.
2	What makes the consumer magazine review more useful than the customer review that says, "Awesome bag!"?	The magazine review gives specific evidence from a rainy walk, storage measurements, and comparisons. "Awesome bag!" gives no details or evidence.
3	What two details are missing from the social media ad's discount claim that make Maya question it?	The ad does not name the earlier seller or show when the \$120 price was charged.
4	Name two actions Maya takes to check the backpack information. Explain how those actions help her make a better decision.	She checks prices at several sellers, reads the return policy, and seeks reviews that explain testing. These steps help her compare facts and judge whether claims are supported.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE	INFORMATION TO SEEK	HOW I WILL JUDGE IT
Retailer product page	Price, return period, and specifications	Compare the price and return rules with another seller.
Independent technology review	Battery-life test and sound comparison	Prefer a review that explains its testing method.
Social media ad	Discount claim and product promises	Check the claimed old price and look for evidence before believing it.

Accept equivalent explanations that distinguish specific, supported information from vague, unsupported, or sales-focused claims. For Part 3, students should use three different sources and explain a reasonable way to check usefulness or possible misleading information.