

Source Trail

Trace how researchers locate credible, relevant evidence.

10.T.RA.2.a “Navigate and use a variety of credible print and digital sources, including academic databases, to locate relevant information about a central argument, topic, or question. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source Jordan relies on for the investigation. Circle details that show how Jordan checks a source’s credibility, relevance, or limit.

Researching Cooler City Blocks

- ① After several dangerously hot summers, Jordan wants to investigate a focused question: How do street trees affect summer temperatures in city neighborhoods? A social-media post claims that trees lower every block's temperature by ten degrees. Jordan does not use the post as evidence because it names no author, study, or location. Instead, Jordan begins with the city library catalog. The catalog helps locate a recent print book about urban forestry and shows its author, publisher, date, and call number. Jordan checks the book's index for “heat islands” and reads the chapter that connects tree canopy, shade, and local temperatures.
- ② Next, Jordan uses the library website to enter an academic database, GreenFILE. Jordan searches “urban tree canopy” AND “surface temperature,” then limits results to peer-reviewed articles published within the past ten years. One article in Urban Forestry & Urban Greening compares satellite-measured land surface temperatures with tree cover in several cities. Its methods section explains how researchers measured both variables, and its reference list lets Jordan trace earlier studies. Jordan reads the abstract first, but opens the full article before deciding it is useful. Because the study includes several cities rather than Jordan’s city alone, Jordan records both its strong evidence and its limit for a local claim.
- ③ Jordan also needs current, local information. On the city government’s open-data page, a map shows the percentage of tree canopy by neighborhood, and a public-health report lists heat-related emergency visits by ZIP code. Jordan notes the dates, the agency that collected each set, and whether the map and report cover the same years. A newspaper article describing residents' requests for more shade can provide local perspectives, but it cannot prove that trees caused a temperature change. By combining the academic article, government data, the print book, and the newspaper, Jordan can answer the question with evidence that is credible, relevant, and matched to different parts of the investigation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What focused research question guides Jordan's investigation?

2 Which tool does Jordan use to find a print source, and what details does it provide to help locate the book?

3 What exact search phrase does Jordan enter in the academic database, and which two limits does Jordan use?

4 Which local digital sources could help Jordan make a claim about the city, and what comparisons or checks must Jordan make before using them together?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a focused research question about a topic you are studying. In 4 sentences, name one credible print source, one credible digital source, and one peer-reviewed source you would locate through an academic database, include a search term or navigation step for the database, and explain what each source could contribute.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source Jordan relies on for the investigation. Circle details that show how Jordan checks a source's credibility, relevance, or limit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What focused research question guides Jordan's investigation?	How do street trees affect summer temperatures in city neighborhoods?
2	Which tool does Jordan use to find a print source, and what details does it provide to help locate the book?	Jordan uses the city library catalog. It provides the author, publisher, date, and call number.
3	What exact search phrase does Jordan enter in the academic database, and which two limits does Jordan use?	Jordan searches "urban tree canopy" AND "surface temperature." Jordan limits results to peer-reviewed articles published within the past ten years.
4	Which local digital sources could help Jordan make a claim about the city, and what comparisons or checks must Jordan make before using them together?	The city government tree-canopy map and the public-health report on heat-related emergency visits provide local information. Jordan must check their dates, the collecting agency, and whether they cover the same years.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is: How did the 1918 influenza pandemic change public-health practices in the United States? I would use John M. Barry's print book *The Great Influenza* to gather historical context and follow its notes to primary sources. In JSTOR, I would search "1918 influenza" AND "public health" and select a peer-reviewed article from the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* for scholarly analysis. I would use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's digital history page on the 1918 pandemic to check basic facts and compare federal public-health information.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the city government map and public-health report. For Part 3, accept different credible sources when the student identifies a focused question, includes all three source types, explains a database search step, and matches each source to a useful purpose.