

Smart Source Scouts

Check sources, choose useful facts, and use your own words.

3.T.RA.2 "Curating Sources & Evidence: Integrate evidence from print and digital sources, assessing credibility and relevance and avoiding plagiarism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that helps Jamal decide whether a source is credible or relevant. Circle the sentence that shows how he avoided plagiarism.

Jamal Researches City Trees

- ① For a report about city trees, Jamal needed facts he could trust. He found a book from the public library called Trees in Our Town. The book named its author, Rosa Lee, and listed a date of 2024. It explained that tree roots hold soil in place. Jamal wrote the book title and the root fact in his research notes.
- ② Next, Jamal opened a website made by a company that sells tree-trimming services. The page said, "Our special spray makes every tree grow twice as fast." No author or studies were named. This claim did not match the library book, so Jamal did not use it. A source is more credible when readers can find who made it and where its information came from.
- ③ Jamal also visited the website of the city parks department. A page dated March 2025 showed a map of new shade trees planted near playgrounds. This source fit his report because it was about trees in his city. Jamal did not copy the page's sentence. He wrote, "The parks department planted shade trees by playgrounds," and put the website name in his notes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two details made the library book seem credible?

2 Why did Jamal decide not to use the tree-trimming company website?

3 Why was the city parks department website relevant to Jamal's report?

4 How did Jamal avoid plagiarism when he used information from the city parks website?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you are researching why students should plant shade trees at school. Use these sources: a 2025 library book by a forest scientist says tree shade can cool a playground, and a 2025 city parks webpage says the city gives free tree seedlings to schools. Write 3 sentences. Give one fact from each source in your own words, name both sources, and explain why the city parks webpage is credible and relevant.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that helps Jamal decide whether a source is credible or relevant. Circle the sentence that shows how he avoided plagiarism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details made the library book seem credible?	It named an author, Rosa Lee, and gave a publication date, 2024.
2	Why did Jamal decide not to use the tree-trimming company website?	It named no author or studies, and its claim did not match the library book.
3	Why was the city parks department website relevant to Jamal's report?	It gave information about trees in Jamal's city.
4	How did Jamal avoid plagiarism when he used information from the city parks website?	He restated the information in his own words and wrote the website name in his notes.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A 2025 library book written by a forest scientist explains that trees can make a playground cooler. The city parks webpage says schools can get tree seedlings without paying. The city parks webpage is credible because it is from the city office that gives the seedlings, and it is relevant because our school needs trees for its playground.

Accept accurate paraphrases that include one fact from each source and identify both sources. The response should explain that the city parks webpage is credible because it comes from the city department and relevant because it provides tree help for a school playground.