

Evidence Detective

Check who made a source, what evidence it gives, and how it compares.

6.T.C.2.d "Use credible sources to research the answers to questions on academic and individual topics of interest. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show why a source is credible or not credible. Circle places where Imani compares a claim with other evidence.

Researching Zora Neale Hurston

- ① When sixth grader Imani asked, "How did Zora Neale Hurston preserve Black storytelling?" she did not begin with a random search result. She wrote smaller questions: Where did Hurston collect stories? What kinds of stories did she record? Then she looked for sources with clear authors, dates, and evidence. A source from a museum, university, library, or historical organization may be more dependable than an unsigned post. Imani also planned to compare information instead of trusting one page.
- ② Her first source was a Library of Congress page about Hurston. It described her 1935 and 1936 fieldwork in Florida and listed digitized recordings held by the American Folklife Center. The page named the collection and explained where its material came from, so Imani could trace the evidence. Her second source was a biography from the National Women's History Museum. It stated that Hurston was an anthropologist and writer who documented African American folklore. Both sources identified the organizations responsible for the information.
- ③ A third result was a blog post claiming that Hurston invented every tale in her folklore books. The post gave no author, publication date, links, or list of sources. Imani noticed that its claim did not fit the recordings and biography, which showed her work documenting folklore. She would not use the blog as evidence. Instead, she could check a university archive or a book with notes and a bibliography. Comparing sources helps a researcher decide whether a claim is supported.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two details from the Library of Congress page helped Imani trace the evidence?

2 Why was it stronger for Imani to use both the Library of Congress page and the museum biography instead of only one source?

3 Which missing feature made the blog post a weak source for Imani's research? Name one and explain why it mattered.

4 After rejecting the blog post, what kind of source could Imani check next, and what feature should it include?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an author or speaker you want to learn about. Write one focused research question, name two credible sources you would use, and explain what makes each source useful. Name one source feature you would avoid and explain why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show why a source is credible or not credible. Circle places where Imani compares a claim with other evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details from the Library of Congress page helped Imani trace the evidence?	The page named the collection and explained where its material came from.
2	Why was it stronger for Imani to use both the Library of Congress page and the museum biography instead of only one source?	Both were made by identified organizations and provided information that supported Hurston's work documenting folklore.
3	Which missing feature made the blog post a weak source for Imani's research? Name one and explain why it mattered.	It had no author, date, links, or source list. Without these details, Imani could not check who made the claim or what evidence supported it.
4	After rejecting the blog post, what kind of source could Imani check next, and what feature should it include?	She could check a university archive or a book with notes and a bibliography, so she can trace its evidence.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is, "How did Frederick Douglass use The North Star to oppose slavery?" I would use digitized issues of The North Star in the Library of Congress's Chronicling America collection because they are primary sources with publication dates, and the National Park Service's Frederick Douglass National Historic Site because it identifies its organization and provides historical background. I would avoid an unsigned social media post because I could not check its author or evidence.

Accept other credible sources when the student identifies a specific organization, author, publication, or primary source and explains how it can be checked. For the open task, accept a focused question and reasoning that connects each source to authority, evidence, or traceable information.