

Evidence, Not Echoes

Choose sources that fit each part of a research question.

8.T.C.2.d “Use a variety of 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 each source named or described. Then circle details that show why the source is useful, limited, or credible.

Researching a Speaker’s Voice

- ① When researching an author or speaker, a good question needs more than one kind of source. Suppose you ask, “How did Maya Angelou’s early experiences help shape her public voice?” Angelou published her memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* in 1969 and read “On the Pulse of Morning” at President Bill Clinton’s 1993 inauguration. Those facts can help you choose sources, but they do not by themselves explain the connection. You need evidence that fits each part of the question.
- ② First, the memoir is a primary source because Angelou describes her own remembered life. It can show the experiences she chose to emphasize, yet memory and storytelling choices mean that it should not stand alone. Next, a student can use a peer-reviewed literary article found through a university library database. Such an article gives an expert’s analysis and cites evidence that readers can inspect. A well-edited biography from the Poetry Foundation can provide basic dates and career facts, but it is not the best source for a detailed literary claim.
- ③ Before writing, compare the sources instead of collecting quotations from only one place. If the memoir and the scholarly article make a similar point, record the agreement and check what evidence each uses. If they disagree, describe the difference rather than hiding it. For a fact about the 1993 inauguration, an official government record or a reputable historical institution is stronger than an unsigned blog. Check who created every source, when it was published, its purpose, and whether its claims can be confirmed elsewhere.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What question about Maya Angelou does the passage use as a research example?

2 Why should Angelou's memoir not be the only source used for the research question?

3 Which source in the passage is strongest for a detailed literary claim? Give one reason.

4 What type of source should a researcher use to verify a fact about the 1993 inauguration instead of using an unsigned blog?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an author or speaker you want to investigate. Write one focused research question, then list three different credible sources you would use, what each could contribute, and why it is credible. Include one sentence explaining how you would compare their claims.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source named or described. Then circle details that show why the source is useful, limited, or credible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What question about Maya Angelou does the passage use as a research example?	How did Maya Angelou's early experiences help shape her public voice?
2	Why should Angelou's memoir not be the only source used for the research question?	It reflects her remembered life and storytelling choices, so it should be checked with other sources.
3	Which source in the passage is strongest for a detailed literary claim? Give one reason.	A peer-reviewed literary article found through a university library database, because it provides expert analysis and cites evidence readers can inspect.
4	What type of source should a researcher use to verify a fact about the 1993 inauguration instead of using an unsigned blog?	An official government record or a reputable historical institution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is: How did Martin Luther King Jr. use repetition in the "I Have a Dream" speech? I would use the Stanford University King Institute's transcript and audio, primary sources for repeated words and delivery; National Archives records, for facts about the March on Washington; and a peer-reviewed rhetoric article from a university library database, for an expert interpretation. I would check whether the article's examples match the transcript and use the archives to confirm the event context.

Accept answers that identify the passage's source types and explain their uses or limits accurately. For Part 3, accept varied topics and sources when the student gives three credible, relevant sources and explains how to compare evidence.