Source Check Station

Judge evidence before using it in a school decision.

8.T.RA.2.b "Analyze print, digital, and multimodal sources for accuracy, credibility, and relevance, determining whether the ideas and information support the topic under investigation and appeal to the target audience. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that support a source's credibility or accuracy, circle details that limit it, and put a star beside information that would matter to the principal and school board.

Choosing Evidence for a Filling Station

1. An eighth-grade team is investigating whether its school should install a water-bottle filling station. The decision will be made by the principal and the school board, so the team needs current information about cost, maintenance, student use, and water quality. First, students find a 2017 print newspaper article about a nearby school's new station. The article quotes that school's principal, who says students used it often. It gives no price or repair records. The article offers useful local history, but its age and missing details limit its value for a 2026 decision.

2. Next, the team opens a digital webpage from a company that sells filling stations. A large counter and photos of students with reusable bottles make the page appealing to schools. The page claims that one station will keep 10,000 plastic bottles from landfills each year, but it does not explain how the company calculated that number. Because the company wants customers, its claim needs checking against an independent source. The webpage may help the team compare features, yet it is not strong evidence for savings or environmental impact.

3. Finally, students examine a 2025 multimodal infographic from the city water department. It combines short text, a map of public water-testing sites, and a chart showing that the department tests drinking water regularly. A link leads to the department's full testing reports, so readers can check the evidence. This source is current and credible for local water quality. Its map and clear icons could help students and board members understand the issue quickly. Still, the infographic cannot answer whether the school can afford installation or future repairs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the 2017 newspaper article only partly useful for the team's 2026 decision?

2. Which source has a numerical claim that needs independent checking? Explain why.

3. What are two features that make the city water department infographic credible for learning about local water quality?

4. Which source would best help the team explain the issue clearly to both students and school board members? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose one additional source the team should use. In 2 to 3 sentences, identify its format, creator, and date, then explain what it could verify and why it would be credible and useful to the principal and board.

ANSWER KEY

Source Check Station

GRADE 8 · 8.T.RA.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that support a source's credibility or accuracy, circle details that limit it, and put a star beside information that would matter to the principal and school board. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the 2017 newspaper article only partly useful for the team's 2026 decision?	**It provides local history and a principal's observation about student use, but it is old and lacks information about price and repair records.**
2	Which source has a numerical claim that needs independent checking? Explain why.	**The company webpage's claim about keeping 10,000 bottles from landfills needs checking because the company does not show its calculation and wants to sell stations.**
3	What are two features that make the city water department infographic credible for learning about local water quality?	**It is current, and it links readers to full testing reports. Its map and chart also show information from the water department's testing work.**
4	Which source would best help the team explain the issue clearly to both students and school board members? Use evidence from the passage.	**The city water department infographic, because its map and clear icons can help students and board members understand the water-quality issue quickly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The team should use a 2026 district facilities report that lists installation bids and repair costs for other schools. Because the district facilities office manages school buildings and provides dated records, the report could verify costs and maintenance needs that the board must consider.

Accept an appropriate current source that fills a gap in the passage, especially cost, repair, or student-use information. The response should name a creator and date and explain both credibility and relevance to the decision makers.