

Evidence Trail

Evaluate sources, then use evidence responsibly.

8.T.RA.2 “Curating Sources & Evidence: Utilize multiple print and digital texts to address a specific topic or question, assessing source credibility and relevance and integrating evidence properly to avoid plagiarism.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that make a source credible or limited. Number 1 and 2 beside the two ways Maya uses source material without plagiarism.

Shade at the Bus Stop

- ① When Maya researched whether her city should plant more shade trees near bus stops, she began with three sources. A city parks department webpage listed the number of street trees and showed a map of neighborhoods with few trees. Because the page named its data year, 2024, and linked to the city’s tree inventory, Maya could check where its information came from. The source was useful for locating places that might need shade trees most.
- ② Next, Maya read a report from a state university’s environmental research center. The report explained that tree shade can lower surface temperatures and cited measurements from several city blocks. Its authors were identified, its methods were described, and its publication date was 2023. Although the report was not about Maya’s exact city, its research was relevant to the question about shade near bus stops. Maya noted that its broader evidence could support a claim but could not prove what would happen on each local street.
- ③ A third source, a neighborhood blog, said that new trees “will cool every bus stop by ten degrees.” The post gave no author, date, study, or link to evidence, so Maya did not use that exact claim. In her notes, she wrote a paraphrase: The university report found cooler surfaces in shaded blocks (State Environmental Research Center, 2023). She copied wording exactly only when she used quotation marks and named the source. Then she combined the city map with the report to recommend studying tree-poor bus stop areas first.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which source is most useful for finding local bus stop areas that may need trees? Give two details that make it credible.

- 2 Why is the university report relevant to Maya's question, and what is one limit of using it?

- 3 Why did Maya reject the blog's claim about cooling every bus stop?

- 4 What two actions did Maya take to avoid plagiarism when using the university report?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a school-related question. Name one print source and one digital source, giving each source's author or organization, date, and a brief reason it is credible and relevant. Then write a three-sentence recommendation that paraphrases one fact from each source, uses parenthetical citations, and contains no copied wording.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that make a source credible or limited. Number 1 and 2 beside the two ways Maya uses source material without plagiarism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is most useful for finding local bus stop areas that may need trees? Give two details that make it credible.	The city parks department webpage. It gives a 2024 data year and links to the city's tree inventory.
2	Why is the university report relevant to Maya's question, and what is one limit of using it?	It provides research about how tree shade affects surface temperatures. It does not study Maya's exact city, so it cannot predict conditions on every local street.
3	Why did Maya reject the blog's claim about cooling every bus stop?	The blog post has no author, date, study, or evidence link, so its claim cannot be checked.
4	What two actions did Maya take to avoid plagiarism when using the university report?	She paraphrased the information and cited the source. When using exact words, she used quotation marks and named the source.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Print source: American Academy of Sleep Medicine, 2016, "Recommended Amount of Sleep for Pediatric Populations." Credible because it is a professional medical organization's statement published in a peer-reviewed journal, and relevant because it addresses adolescents' sleep needs. Digital source: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2014, "School Start Times for Adolescents." Credible because it is guidance from a medical organization, and relevant because it addresses school schedules and teen health. Recommendation: Our middle school should consider moving its start time later. Sleep guidance places adolescents' nightly need within an eight-to-ten-hour range (American Academy of Sleep Medicine, 2016). American Academy of Pediatrics policy supports school days that begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m., which could give students more opportunity to meet that need (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2014).

Accept other source choices when students identify a source's author or organization, date, credibility, and relevance. The recommendation should use evidence from both sources in the student's own words and include clear citations.