

Evidence in Motion

Study how a writer blends source material into an original proposal.

9.T.RA.1.c “Integrate paraphrased, summarized, and quoted material into original texts in various ways for intended purposes that strengthen the writing, citing ideas in Modern Language Association (MLA) format. (C)”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the direct quotation, circle every parenthetical citation, and write Q, P, or S beside the sentence that mainly uses a quotation, paraphrase, or summary.

A Proposal for Street Trees

- ① For a proposal asking our city to protect street trees, I opened with a short quotation that gives readers a memorable fact. The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that trees can “reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent” (Food and Agriculture Organization). I placed the quoted words inside my own sentence, rather than letting the source speak alone. The quotation supports my claim that tree care can lower household energy use. It also fits my audience, city council members deciding whether to fund pruning and planting.
- ② Next, I paraphrased evidence from a research article. Instead of copying the article's language, I explained that trees and forests across the United States removed an estimated 17.4 million metric tons of air pollution in 2010 (Nowak et al.). My version keeps the number and main idea but uses a shorter sentence and connects the evidence to our streets. This paraphrase strengthens my proposal because cleaner air affects residents who walk, bike, and wait for buses near traffic. The parenthetical citation shows where the idea and statistic came from.
- ③ Finally, I summarized both sources in my conclusion: protecting urban trees can save energy and improve air quality (Food and Agriculture Organization; Nowak et al.). This sentence gives only the shared message, not every detail from either source. By combining the evidence with my recommendation, I make the proposal sound like my own reasoned argument. Each parenthetical citation comes immediately after the borrowed idea. In the full proposal, a Works Cited page would give readers complete publication details for both sources so readers can locate and evaluate them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What exact words does the writer quote in paragraph 1, and which source is named in the parenthetical citation?

2 What two important details does the paragraph 2 paraphrase keep from the research article?

3 How does the writer make the paraphrase in paragraph 2 part of an original proposal rather than a copied source sentence?

4 Copy the summary sentence from paragraph 3. Which two sources does its MLA citation credit?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use these source notes: Source A, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: "At least half of Earth's oxygen comes from the ocean." Source B, United Nations Environment Programme: About 11 million metric tons of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems each year. Write a 75-95-word recommendation for one action your school could take to reduce plastic waste. Include one direct quotation from Source A, a paraphrase of Source B, a one-sentence summary that combines both sources, and MLA parenthetical citations for every borrowed idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the direct quotation, circle every parenthetical citation, and write Q, P, or S beside the sentence that mainly uses a quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What exact words does the writer quote in paragraph 1, and which source is named in the parenthetical citation?	The quoted words are “reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent,” and the citation names the Food and Agriculture Organization.
2	What two important details does the paragraph 2 paraphrase keep from the research article?	It keeps the estimate of 17.4 million metric tons and the main idea that U.S. trees and forests removed air pollution in 2010.
3	How does the writer make the paraphrase in paragraph 2 part of an original proposal rather than a copied source sentence?	The writer uses a shorter sentence in new wording and connects the evidence to local streets and residents near traffic.
4	Copy the summary sentence from paragraph 3. Which two sources does its MLA citation credit?	“Protecting urban trees can save energy and improve air quality” is the summary sentence. It credits the Food and Agriculture Organization and Nowak et al.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should cut single-use plastic bottles and bags every day. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration explains that “at least half of Earth’s oxygen comes from the ocean” (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The United Nations Environment Programme reports that roughly 11 million metric tons of plastic waste enter aquatic ecosystems each year, so reducing disposable plastic is a sensible school action (United Nations Environment Programme). Together, these sources show that ocean health matters and plastic waste threatens waters we depend on (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; United Nations Environment Programme).

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately identify how the writer uses original wording, source evidence, and MLA parenthetical citations. For the open response, check for a 75-95-word recommendation, an accurate quotation from Source A, an accurate paraphrase of Source B, a combined summary sentence, and citations attached to borrowed ideas.