

Research Route Map

Trace how a researcher finds relevant, credible evidence.

9.T.RA.2.a “Navigate and use a variety of credible print and digital sources, including academic databases, to locate relevant information about a central argument, topic, or question. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source or database Jordan uses, circle details that help Jordan judge credibility or relevance, and number the sources in the order Jordan considers them.

Following a Research Path

- ① Jordan begins with a focused question: How do street trees affect summer heat in neighborhoods? A general web search produces an advocacy group's colorful infographic, but it gives no author, date, or links to data. Jordan does not use it as evidence. Instead, Jordan visits the Environmental Protection Agency website and searches “urban heat islands trees.” The agency page explains the urban heat island effect and links to technical resources. Jordan records the page title, publication date, organization, and URL in a research log. This source is useful for background because it comes from a federal environmental agency.
- ② Next, Jordan opens JSTOR through the school library's database list. In JSTOR, Jordan searches “street trees” AND “urban heat,” then limits results to peer-reviewed journal articles. One article describes a study that compares temperatures in places with different amounts of tree cover. Jordan reads the abstract first to decide whether the study addresses the question, then checks the authors, journal, methods, and publication date. The article can provide detailed evidence, but Jordan notes where the study occurred. Results from one city may not represent every neighborhood or climate. Jordan saves the citation and a PDF, if the library provides access.
- ③ Jordan also looks for local information in a printed report from the city planning department. The report maps tree canopy by neighborhood and lists the year its data were collected. Because the department manages local planning data, the report may help Jordan connect broad research to nearby conditions. Still, Jordan checks whether the report explains its methods and whether newer data exist. Jordan will not treat any one source as a complete answer. The EPA page supplies background, the journal article supplies a research study, and the local report supplies place-specific context. Together, these sources help Jordan build an evidence-based response to the question.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which web source does Jordan decide not to use as evidence? Identify two details that make it a weak choice.

2 How does Jordan use the school library database to locate a relevant academic source? Give two actions from the passage.

3 Why does Jordan check where the journal study occurred before using its results?

4 What distinct purpose does each of Jordan's three credible sources serve in the research?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a central research question about a school or community issue and create a three-source search plan. Include one credible government or organization website, one academic database with search terms, and one credible print source, then explain in one sentence how each item could help answer your question.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source or database Jordan uses, circle details that help Jordan judge credibility or relevance, and number the sources in the order Jordan considers them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which web source does Jordan decide not to use as evidence? Identify two details that make it a weak choice.	Jordan rejects the advocacy group's infographic because it has no author, no date, and no links to data.
2	How does Jordan use the school library database to locate a relevant academic source? Give two actions from the passage.	Jordan opens JSTOR through the library database list, searches "street trees" AND "urban heat," limits results to peer-reviewed articles, and reads an abstract to check relevance.
3	Why does Jordan check where the journal study occurred before using its results?	A study from one city may not represent every neighborhood or climate.
4	What distinct purpose does each of Jordan's three credible sources serve in the research?	The EPA page provides background, the peer-reviewed journal article provides detailed research evidence, and the city planning report provides local context.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How do later school start times affect high school students? 1. Digital source: A CDC webpage about school start times and teen sleep can provide public-health background and links to data. 2. Academic database: In ERIC, I would search "later school start times" AND "high school students" to find peer-reviewed studies about sleep, attendance, and learning. 3. Print source: The National Academies Press book Sleep Disorders and Sleep Deprivation: An Unmet Public Health Problem can provide research-based information about adolescent sleep needs.

Accept answers that identify credible, relevant source types and explain a sensible search path. For the open task, students may choose different topics and sources if they include all three required source types and a clear use for each.