Trace the Tide

Use MLA citations to connect beach-safety advice to its sources.

11-12.W.4.c "Utilize a standard style guide framework for in-text documentation, formatting, and works cited in order to properly credit sources in all writing types, utilizing multiple sources when appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each borrowed fact or recommendation, circle its in-text citation, and number the matching Works Cited entry. Use your marks to trace each idea to its source.

A Beach Guide With Sources

(1) At the beach, a calm-looking gap between breaking waves can hide a rip current. A rip current is a narrow stream of water moving away from shore, not a force that drags swimmers beneath the surface (National Ocean Service). That distinction matters: a swimmer who mistakes the current for an undertow may fight the water in panic. In this guide, the parenthetical citation credits the agency that explains the current itself. Because the agency's web page has no numbered pages, the citation gives the agency name rather than an invented page number.

(2) Imagine that a class is planning a beach trip. Before anyone enters the water, the group can check the local rip-current forecast and choose a beach with lifeguards (National Weather Service). If someone is caught in a rip current, that person should stay calm and swim parallel to shore until free of the current, then head back toward land (National Weather Service). These recommendations come from a safety guide, not from the source used above to define the current. Giving each borrowed idea its own citation lets a reader trace advice to the correct agency.

(3) During an emergency, instructions must be short enough to remember. A guide can paraphrase the safety advice in plain language: swim along the shoreline rather than exhausting yourself by fighting toward the beach (National Weather Service). The citation still belongs after the paraphrase, even without quotation marks. To help readers find the two complete sources, this model ends with a Works Cited list in alphabetical order. Works Cited National Ocean Service. "What Is a Rip Current?" *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ripcurrent.html. National Weather Service. "Rip Current Safety." *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which in-text citation credits the definition of a rip current? Explain why it has no page number.

2. Write the MLA parenthetical citation for the advice to check a local rip-current forecast before swimming.

3. Which Works Cited title helps a reader locate the source for the advice to swim parallel to shore?

4. Why does the paraphrased safety advice in the final paragraph still need an in-text citation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence announcement addressed to classmates before a beach trip. In your own words, include one distinct detail from each source, cite each detail in MLA style, and add a two-entry Works Cited list in alphabetical order.

Trace the Tide

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each borrowed fact or recommendation, circle its in-text citation, and number the matching Works Cited entry. Use your marks to trace each idea to its source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which in-text citation credits the definition of a rip current? Explain why it has no page number.	**(National Ocean Service). The cited web page has no numbered pages.**
2	Write the MLA parenthetical citation for the advice to check a local rip-current forecast before swimming.	**(National Weather Service)**
3	Which Works Cited title helps a reader locate the source for the advice to swim parallel to shore?	**"Rip Current Safety."**
4	Why does the paraphrased safety advice in the final paragraph still need an in-text citation?	**The advice comes from another source. Paraphrasing it without quotation marks does not remove the need to credit that source.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Classmates, remember that a rip current carries water away from shore but does not pull you underwater (National Ocean Service). Before we swim, let's check the local rip-current forecast and choose a beach with lifeguards (National Weather Service). Knowing what the water can do will help us make safer choices.

Works Cited

National Ocean Service. "What Is a Rip Current?" *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ripcurrent.html.

National Weather Service. "Rip Current Safety." *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent.

Accept other accurate, distinct details from the two sources. Check that each paraphrase has the matching parenthetical citation and that both complete Works Cited entries appear in alphabetical order.