Search, Then Judge

Build a stronger research question with searches and source notes.

11-12.W.5.b "Gather relevant information from multiple types of authoritative sources, using advanced searches effectively, and annotate sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways Maya narrows a search, circle the three source types she seeks, and number three limits she records. These marks will help you track how each source could support her research.

Investigating Shade at Bus Stops

1. At a Phoenix bus stop in August, a rider may wait beside sunlit pavement with no nearby shelter. Maya wants to investigate whether the city should prioritize shade at stops, but a vivid photo would not tell her how many stops lack cover or how shade affects a person's exposure. She divides the question into three smaller ones: Where are shelters located? What does research say about shade and heat exposure? How hot are summer afternoons locally? Each question calls for a different kind of evidence, and each source needs an annotation before Maya uses it.

2. To find a public transit document, Maya searches site:phoenix.gov "bus stop" "shelter" filetype:pdf. The site filter targets city pages, quotation marks keep phrases together, and the file filter seeks PDFs; she still checks who published any result. In a library database, she searches "bus stop" AND "mean radiant temperature," then limits results to peer-reviewed studies published since 2020. For local weather context, she looks for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hourly observations from a Phoenix-area station. These are different source types: an agency record, a research article, and measured weather data. None alone answers her whole question.

3. In her notes, Maya records each source's title, creator, date, and link, then adds a short judgment. A city shelter list could locate existing shelters, but its update date matters and it cannot show how comfortable each stop feels. A peer-reviewed field study could explain a method for measuring heat exposure, but results from another city may not transfer directly to Phoenix. Airport weather observations could establish regional conditions, not temperatures beside a particular bench. Maya flags these limits rather than turning a plausible connection into a claim that her sources have not tested.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do two parts of Maya's city-document search narrow what she is likely to find?

2. Why does Maya add both a peer-reviewed filter and a publication-date limit to her library search?

3. Which two source types could help Maya investigate shelter locations and local summer weather? State what each could establish.

4. Write a brief annotation for the field study Maya seeks. Include its possible value and the limit she should note.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a local issue other than bus-stop heat. Write two advanced searches aimed at different authoritative source types, then give each type a provisional annotation stating its authority, possible use, and likely limit; do not invent findings.

ANSWER KEY

Search, Then Judge

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.W.5.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways Maya narrows a search, circle the three source types she seeks, and number three limits she records. These marks will help you track how each source could support her research. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do two parts of Maya's city-document search narrow what she is likely to find?	**The site filter targets Phoenix city pages, and filetype:pdf seeks PDFs. Quotation marks also keep the search phrases together.**
2	Why does Maya add both a peer-reviewed filter and a publication-date limit to her library search?	**The filters narrow results to studies that have undergone peer review and were published since 2020.**
3	Which two source types could help Maya investigate shelter locations and local summer weather? State what each could establish.	**A city agency record could locate existing shelters. Hourly weather observations could establish regional weather conditions.**
4	Write a brief annotation for the field study Maya seeks. Include its possible value and the limit she should note.	**A peer-reviewed field study could explain how researchers measure heat exposure. If conducted in another city, its findings may not transfer directly to Phoenix.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: Where should Seattle prioritize safer crossings near schools? Search 1: site:seattle.gov "pedestrian collisions" filetype:pdf. Source to seek: a Seattle transportation department collision report. As an agency record, it could locate reported crashes; unreported near misses would be missing. Search 2: "school crosswalk" AND "driver yielding" in a library database, with peer-reviewed and 2020–2026 filters. Source to seek: a peer-reviewed field study. Its measured behavior could inform crossing design, but findings from another city might not transfer directly.

Accept equivalent search refinements and source limits grounded in the passage. In Part 3, look for two distinct authoritative source types, purposeful search controls, and provisional annotations that do not claim unverified results.