Shade and Sources

Use varied evidence and MLA citations to shape a careful proposal.

11-12.W.5.e "Avoid plagiarism and over reliance on any one source and follow a standard format (e.g., MLA, APA) for citation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact or quotation taken from a source, and circle its MLA citation. Number the sources in the order they first appear so you can see how the writer uses more than one.

A Shadier Route at Cedar High

1 At fictional Cedar High, a student council wants to replace a strip of blacktop with trees. Its proposal begins with a narrow claim: shade could improve the walking route on hot afternoons. In a district facilities memo, engineer Maya Chen reports that a test canopy lowered the blacktop's surface temperature by five degrees at noon on one September day (Chen 2). The memo calls the measurement a "surface reading" (Chen 2). The council can use that measurement to consider where a shade pilot might help.

2 A second source examines how students use the route. In a student traffic survey, Luis Vega counted 64 walkers using the east gate during dismissal and found that 41 chose the unshaded route because it was shorter (Vega 1). The survey took place on one Tuesday, so its count describes choices made that day. A third source, the district's 2025 grounds plan, lists an underground water line near the proposed planting strip and recommends checking its location before digging (Cedar School District 6). The council now has evidence about heat, student routes, and a possible obstacle.

3 The council's letter turns the documents into a modest proposal. It suggests a pilot shade structure beside the east gate, then new surface readings at the same time of day to compare conditions (Chen 2). Before any tree planting, it recommends a utility check where the district plan shows a buried water line (Cedar School District 6). It calls for a second survey after students have seen a proposed route, since Vega observed their choices only on one Tuesday (Vega 1). Each part of the plan draws on a different document, but no single document supplies the entire recommendation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A flyer claims that the canopy will lower the air temperature across Cedar High by five degrees. Does Chen's evidence support that claim? Explain and cite the source.

2. A classmate predicts that most current east-gate walkers will choose a new shaded route. What evidence complicates that prediction? Cite the source.

3. Write a new sentence that uses the exact words “surface reading” from Chen's memo. Show that the words are quoted and add an MLA citation.

4. Which two sources would help the council support a shade pilot that avoids digging? State what each source contributes and cite both.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 105 word note to the principal recommending or opposing a one-month shade pilot. Paraphrase evidence from at least two different passage sources, add an MLA citation for each, and explain one limit of the evidence. Do not use a direct quotation.

ANSWER KEY

Shade and Sources

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.W.5.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each fact or quotation taken from a source, and circle its MLA citation. Number the sources in the order they first appear so you can see how the writer uses more than one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A flyer claims that the canopy will lower the air temperature across Cedar High by five degrees. Does Chen's evidence support that claim? Explain and cite the source.	**No. Chen measured a five-degree decrease in blacktop surface temperature under a test canopy at noon on one September day, not a change in campus-wide air temperature (Chen 2).**
2	A classmate predicts that most current east-gate walkers will choose a new shaded route. What evidence complicates that prediction? Cite the source.	**Vega found that 41 of 64 walkers chose the shorter unshaded route on the Tuesday he surveyed them (Vega 1).**
3	Write a new sentence that uses the exact words "surface reading" from Chen's memo. Show that the words are quoted and add an MLA citation.	**Chen describes the canopy measurement as a "surface reading" (Chen 2).**
4	Which two sources would help the council support a shade pilot that avoids digging? State what each source contributes and cite both.	**Chen provides the canopy's surface-temperature measurement (Chen 2). The district plan identifies a buried water line that makes checking before digging important (Cedar School District 6).**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal, I recommend testing a temporary shade structure near Cedar High's east gate for one month. Chen recorded a five-degree drop in blacktop surface temperature beneath a test canopy at noon on one September day (Chen 2). That result supports a pilot, not a promise about every afternoon. Vega found that 41 of 64 walkers took the shorter unshaded route on one Tuesday (Vega 1). Before choosing a permanent route, the school should ask students whether the proposed shaded path would change their choices.

Accept equivalent explanations with accurate MLA author-page citations. For Your Turn, check that the note stays within 75 to 105 words, paraphrases at least two distinct sources, cites each one, and identifies a genuine limit of the evidence.