Source Check

Look for evidence you can check.

6.W.5 "Conduct research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study. Formulate a research question (e.g., In what ways did Madame Walker influence Indiana society?)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

STRONG SOURCE

A strong source tells you where its information came from and gives evidence you can check, such as dated records or a clear study method.

An aquarium biologist identifies dated water tests and explains where the readings were recorded.

WEAK SOURCE

A weak source makes a claim but gives you no evidence or clear way to check it.

A mystery blogger says a dragonfly can lift a bicycle but gives no proof.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each description, circle STRONG or WEAK, then choose two items and explain what helped you decide.

1.	City arborist Maya Chen shares dated sidewalk temperature readings and explains how she took them.	STRONG WEAK
2.	A parks office report lists tree counts by block and gives the counting dates and method.	STRONG WEAK
3.	An unnamed post claims street trees cool every road by exactly 20 degrees but gives no data.	STRONG WEAK
4.	A university researcher describes a shade study and links to its recorded measurements.	STRONG WEAK
5.	A tree seller says trees fix all city problems but provides no studies or records.	STRONG WEAK
6.	A video host says street trees never need water and gives no source for the claim.	STRONG WEAK
7.	A city health department posts its survey questions and results about shaded walking routes.	STRONG WEAK
8.	A local scientist cites a public air-quality data set and explains where sensors were placed near streets with trees.	STRONG WEAK

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new STRONG source description and one new WEAK source description about street trees.

STRONG _____

WEAK _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one WEAK item and rewrite its description as STRONG. Name a knowledgeable writer and describe evidence readers could check, but do not invent any findings.

ANSWER KEY

Source Check

GRADE 6 · 6.W.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	City arborist Maya Chen shares dated sidewalk temperature readings and explains how she took them.	**STRONG**	Names a knowledgeable writer and describes checkable measurements and a method.
2	A parks office report lists tree counts by block and gives the counting dates and method.	**STRONG**	Provides checkable counts, dates, and a method.
3	An unnamed post claims street trees cool every road by exactly 20 degrees but gives no data.	**WEAK**	Makes a precise claim without data to support it.
4	A university researcher describes a shade study and links to its recorded measurements.	**STRONG**	Describes a study and provides measurements readers can check.
5	A tree seller says trees fix all city problems but provides no studies or records.	**WEAK**	Makes a sweeping claim without checkable evidence.
6	A video host says street trees never need water and gives no source for the claim.	**WEAK**	Provides no evidence for the claim.
7	A city health department posts its survey questions and results about shaded walking routes.	**STRONG**	Shares both the questions and results so readers can examine the survey.
8	A local scientist cites a public air-quality data set and explains where sensors were placed near streets with trees.	**STRONG**	Identifies checkable data and explains how it was collected.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STRONG**: A city planner shares a dated map of planting sites and explains how the locations were chosen.
- **WEAK**: An unsigned flyer says street trees are harmful but offers no facts to check.

Challenge: Item 3: City arborist Dana Ortiz posts dated road temperature readings from streets with and without trees and explains how the readings were taken.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are STRONG. Items 3, 5, and 6 are WEAK. For Part 2, accept explanations that point to checkable evidence or its absence.