Who Said It?

Track borrowed words and ideas with MLA citations.

7.W.5.e "Avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words Jay copies from Ortiz, circle each (Ortiz) in his report, and draw a line from each cited sentence to the matching detail on Ortiz's card.

A Garden Report With Sources

1. This classroom example uses made-up field notes, not a real wildlife study. Lena Ortiz wrote a source card titled "Lunch Garden Notes" and dated it 12 May 2025. The card says, "At Brookside School, students counted 18 butterflies near the flower beds during one lunch period." A second line says, "The count included butterflies that landed on flowers and those that flew past." Ortiz wrote both lines. When another writer uses these observations, changing the words does not change who gathered the information.

2. Here is part of Jay's report: "I noticed butterflies near our school's flowers at lunch. Ortiz's card reports that students 'counted 18 butterflies near the flower beds during one lunch period' (Ortiz). The observers included butterflies on flowers and butterflies flying nearby (Ortiz)." Jay's first sentence is his own observation. The next two sentences use details from Ortiz's card. One copies Ortiz's words, while the other puts her information in Jay's words. Both sentences point readers to the person who gathered the information.

3. At the end of his report, Jay includes this entry under Works Cited: Ortiz, Lena. "Lunch Garden Notes." Classroom source card, 12 May 2025. A second made-up card is available for your own writing. Nia Chen wrote "Planter Log," a classroom source card dated 14 May 2025. It states, "On Tuesday, six bees visited the lavender planter during ten minutes of observation." It also says, "The students watched from the steps and did not touch the insects." Chen's observations are separate from Ortiz's butterfly count.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the exact words Jay quotes from Ortiz. How does his report show that these are copied words?

2. Copy the sentence in Jay's report that puts Ortiz's information in his own words. What citation does he give?

3. Which sentence in Jay's report does not need a citation to Ortiz? Explain why.

4. Suppose Jay removed (Ortiz) from his sentence about butterflies flying nearby. What would readers wrongly assume, and why would that be plagiarism?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about Chen's bee observations: paraphrase the bee count in one sentence and quote the sentence about where the students watched in the other. Cite Chen in both sentences, then add an MLA Works Cited entry for her card.

ANSWER KEY

Who Said It?

GRADE 7 · 7.W.5.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words Jay copies from Ortiz, circle each (Ortiz) in his report, and draw a line from each cited sentence to the matching detail on Ortiz's card. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the exact words Jay quotes from Ortiz. How does his report show that these are copied words?	**"counted 18 butterflies near the flower beds during one lunch period"; quotation marks show that Jay copied the words.**
2	Copy the sentence in Jay's report that puts Ortiz's information in his own words. What citation does he give?	**"The observers included butterflies on flowers and butterflies flying nearby (Ortiz)." The citation is (Ortiz).**
3	Which sentence in Jay's report does not need a citation to Ortiz? Explain why.	**"I noticed butterflies near our school's flowers at lunch." Jay presents it as his own observation, not information from Ortiz's card.**
4	Suppose Jay removed (Ortiz) from his sentence about butterflies flying nearby. What would readers wrongly assume, and why would that be plagiarism?	**Readers might assume Jay gathered that information himself. It would be plagiarism because the detail came from Ortiz's card, but Jay would not credit her.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Six bees visited a lavender planter during a ten-minute watch on Tuesday (Chen). Chen reports, "The students watched from the steps and did not touch the insects" (Chen).
Works Cited
Chen, Nia. "Planter Log." Classroom source card, 14 May 2025.

Accept accurate paraphrases that change more than a few words while preserving the count, place, and time. The quotation should match Chen's card, and both sentences should include (Chen).