Trace the Trash

Search, check sources, and credit borrowed ideas

C.8.6 "Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and, in order to reflect, analyze or complete short research projects..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the source notes, underline the two facts from Source A and circle the two facts from Source B. Number the Works Cited entries in alphabetical order so you can match each fact to its source.

Maya Investigates Creek Litter

1. The student council wants to keep litter out of the creek beside school. Maya starts with the search *water pollution*, but the results range from oil spills to fertilizers. She tries *storm drain litter creek school* to find information about trash that rain can move. One result is a forum post claiming that storm drains always filter out plastic. The post has no named writer, date, or evidence. Maya saves it as a claim to check, not as a fact to cite. She opens two government pages as well.

2. Source A is the Environmental Protection Agency's page, "Learn About Aquatic Trash." It says runoff can move trash from streets into storm drains and waterways. The page also describes plastic as a type of aquatic trash. Source B is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's page, "What Is Marine Debris?" It describes marine debris as human-made solid material that enters the ocean or Great Lakes. The page lists discarded fishing gear as one example. Maya records each page's organization and title beside its notes.

3. Maya plans to choose details that fit her creek question, then explain a school action in her own words. She will place an organization's name in parentheses after each borrowed idea and list both pages at the end. Her alphabetized Works Cited entries are: Environmental Protection Agency. "Learn About Aquatic Trash." *EPA*, https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/learn-about-aquatic-trash. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "What Is Marine Debris?" *National Ocean Service*, https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/marinedebris.html. A source list alone is not enough: readers also need to know which sentence draws on which page.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is Maya's second search more useful for her creek project than her first search?

2. What makes the forum post harder to trust than the two government pages?

3. If Maya needs to define marine debris, which source should she select? Give one fact from that source that fits.

4. A draft says, “Plastic is a type of aquatic trash.” Which MLA in-text citation should go after that sentence's borrowed idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence pitch for a school display. Use one fact from each government page in your own words, cite each fact in MLA style, and propose your own display idea. Then add alphabetized Works Cited entries for both pages.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Trash

GRADE 8 · C.8.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the source notes, underline the two facts from Source A and circle the two facts from Source B. Number the Works Cited entries in alphabetical order so you can match each fact to its source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is Maya's second search more useful for her creek project than her first search?	**It names storm drains, litter, creeks, and schools, so it is more likely to find information that fits her project.**
2	What makes the forum post harder to trust than the two government pages?	**The post gives no named writer, date, or evidence, so Maya cannot check who made its claim or what supports it.**
3	If Maya needs to define marine debris, which source should she select? Give one fact from that source that fits.	**Source B. It describes marine debris as human-made solid material that enters the ocean or Great Lakes.**
4	A draft says, "Plastic is a type of aquatic trash." Which MLA in-text citation should go after that sentence's borrowed idea?	**(Environmental Protection Agency)**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain can wash street litter into storm drains and waterways (Environmental Protection Agency). Discarded fishing equipment is one kind of marine debris (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). Our display could pair a sign beside a school drain with a collection bin for loose wrappers.

Works Cited

Environmental Protection Agency. "Learn About Aquatic Trash." *EPA*, https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/learn-about-aquatic-trash.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "What Is Marine Debris?" *National Ocean Service*, https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/marinedebris.html.

Accept accurate paraphrases of one fact from each government page, with the correct organization cited beside each fact. The display idea must be the student's own, and the two Works Cited entries should be alphabetized.