

Source Check Lab

Read a model for choosing, checking, and crediting research sources.

7W7 “Gather relevant information from multiple sources; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others; avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sentences that explain why a source is credible, circle the quotation marks around borrowed wording, and number the two parenthetical citations 1 and 2.

Researching School Start Times

- ① For a report about later middle-school start times, Lena gathered three sources. The American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement was relevant because it addressed teen sleep and school schedules. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, page explained that teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. A local parent’s blog described one family’s rushed mornings. Lena kept the first two sources because they supplied expert health information. She saved the blog only as a personal example, not evidence for a broad claim.
- ② Before using sources, Lena checked who created them, when they were published, and whether each claim matched another reliable source. The academy statement was written by pediatric experts and published in a medical journal. The CDC page came from a federal public health agency. These details made both sources more credible than the blog, which gave no author qualifications or research links. Lena also noticed that the academy’s recommendation, later start times, matched the concern about teen sleep described by the CDC. Agreement alone did not prove either source correct, but supported further checking.
- ③ In her draft, Lena used a short exact quote from the academy: “middle and high schools should aim for start times that allow students the opportunity to achieve optimal levels of sleep” (American Academy of Pediatrics 648). She paraphrased the CDC’s sleep-range information in her own words and cited it: Teens need eight to ten hours of sleep nightly (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Quotation marks showed borrowed wording. The citations named the authors, and Lena listed source details in an MLA Works Cited section. This let readers find the sources and prevented plagiarism.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did Lena save the parent’s blog only as a personal example instead of using it as evidence for a broad claim?

2 Name any two checks Lena made before using a source.

3 How does Lena show that the academy words are an exact quotation, and how does she show where the words came from?

4 What does Lena include in her MLA Works Cited section, and how does that help prevent plagiarism?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a research question you could investigate at school. In 75 to 100 words, name two sources you would use, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, then write one quoted or paraphrased fact from one source with an MLA-style parenthetical citation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two sentences that explain why a source is credible, circle the quotation marks around borrowed wording, and number the two parenthetical citations 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Lena save the parent's blog only as a personal example instead of using it as evidence for a broad claim?	It described only one family's experience and gave no author qualifications or research links.
2	Name any two checks Lena made before using a source.	She checked who created the source, when it was published, and whether its claim matched another reliable source. Accept any two.
3	How does Lena show that the academy words are an exact quotation, and how does she show where the words came from?	She puts the borrowed words in quotation marks and gives a parenthetical citation with the author and page number, (American Academy of Pediatrics 648).
4	What does Lena include in her MLA Works Cited section, and how does that help prevent plagiarism?	She includes source details. This lets readers find the sources and gives credit to the original authors.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How much physical activity do teens need? I would use the CDC webpage "Physical Activity Basics" because a federal health agency publishes it. Its agreement with another reliable source supports its accuracy. I would use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans because it is a federal guideline based on scientific evidence. Its agreement with the CDC supports its accuracy. Teens should get 60 minutes or more of physical activity daily (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Accept a reasonable school-related question and two identifiable sources. Each source should have a credibility and accuracy assessment, and the student's borrowed fact must be quoted or paraphrased with a matching MLA-style parenthetical citation.