Words Worth Quoting

Introduce a source's exact words with a colon.

8.5.W.8 "Students will use a colon to introduce a quotation from a source."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each complete lead-in before a colon. Circle the quotation it introduces to see how the writer connects a source to its exact words.

The Pencil Box Project

1. On Monday, the student council set a box of spare pencils outside Cedar Middle School's library. Anyone could take one or leave one, with no sign-out sheet. The council's announcement explained the goal: "A forgotten pencil should not stop anyone from starting class." By lunchtime, the box held a jumble of striped, chewed, and barely used pencils. One student added a sharpener, but the council moved it inside the library so the box would not become a pile of loose shavings.

2. At first, some students wondered whether taking a pencil meant they had to bring one back later. The sign on the box answered that question: "Take what you need. Leave what you can." A library volunteer noticed another problem. Students rushing to class could not tell whether a pencil still had an eraser. In her written note to the council, volunteer Ana suggested a simple fix: "Keep pencils with erasers in the left cup." The council placed two cups inside the box the next morning.

3. The box did not solve every problem. Pencils still disappeared quickly on days when many students had tests, and a few broken ones collected at the bottom. After one week, the council's meeting notes reported a change: "We will check the box each morning and remove broken pencils." That plan kept the project small enough for students to manage. It also showed that sharing supplies takes more than a generous first donation. Someone has to notice what is happening and adjust the plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the complete lead-in before the colon in paragraph 1. Which source supplies the quotation?

2. In paragraph 2, which exact words from the box sign follow a colon? Copy both sentences in the quotation.

3. Copy the complete lead-in that introduces Ana's words in paragraph 2. Include the colon.

4. Write a new complete lead-in that names the source of the quotation in paragraph 3. Add a colon and the exact quotation.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you interviewed someone about improving a shared space. Write two sentences that identify the person and the space, then introduce an original quotation from that person with a colon after a complete lead-in.

ANSWER KEY

Words Worth Quoting

GRADE 8 · 8.5.W.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each complete lead-in before a colon. Circle the quotation it introduces to see how the writer connects a source to its exact words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the complete lead-in before the colon in paragraph 1. Which source supplies the quotation?	**"The council's announcement explained the goal" is the lead-in. The source is the council's announcement.**
2	In paragraph 2, which exact words from the box sign follow a colon? Copy both sentences in the quotation.	**"Take what you need. Leave what you can."**
3	Copy the complete lead-in that introduces Ana's words in paragraph 2. Include the colon.	**In her written note to the council, volunteer Ana suggested a simple fix:**
4	Write a new complete lead-in that names the source of the quotation in paragraph 3. Add a colon and the exact quotation.	**The council's meeting notes described the new routine: "We will check the box each morning and remove broken pencils."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I asked my neighbor how we could improve our apartment courtyard. My neighbor suggested one change: "Put a bench near the shade tree so people can sit and talk."

For question 4, accept any complete lead-in that identifies the meeting notes and uses a colon before the exact quotation. For Your Turn, the quoted words may vary, but the colon must follow a complete lead-in.