

Evidence Trail

Evaluate sources, then use evidence responsibly.

8.T.RA.2 "Curating Sources & Evidence: Utilize multiple print and digital texts to address a specific topic or question, assessing source credibility and relevance and integrating evidence properly to avoid plagiarism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the fictional Maya case. Underline checkable evidence of credibility or limits; number two ways she avoids plagiarism. Then use the required real print and digital sources for Your Turn.

Shade at the Bus Stop

- ① In this fictional case, Maya studies shade near bus stops. A city parks webpage maps neighborhoods with few trees, names its 2024 data year, and links to its tree inventory. It does not locate bus stops. Maya must combine the tree map with a bus-stop map before recommending particular stops. The tree inventory makes the source checkable; it does not answer every part of her question.
- ② Maya also reads a fictional university report about shaded city blocks. Named authors, a described method, and a 2023 publication date help her evaluate it. Its finding about cooler surfaces is relevant, but it cannot predict the temperature at a particular stop in her city. A neighborhood blog claims that trees will cool every stop by ten degrees, without naming evidence. She rejects that unsupported guarantee.
- ③ Maya takes notes in her own words and records the source for each fact. Any exact wording needs quotation marks as well as a citation. She compares evidence before making a limited recommendation, and lists the sources she used. A citation alone does not make copied wording a paraphrase. In Your Turn, gather evidence from the two real sources named below; do not use this fictional case as research evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What can the city tree map locate? What additional source is needed to identify specific bus stops?

2 Give two checkable credibility clues for the university report and one limit on its relevance.

3 Why is the blog's cooling guarantee weaker than the report's claim?

4 What must Maya do when paraphrasing, and what extra step is needed for exact wording?

Label your records A (EPA printout) and B (USDA webpage); their organizations, titles and URLs are already printed above and need not be recopied. For EACH, record its current update date (or n.d.) and the section used. Note a relevant fact in your own words, a checkable credibility clue, and a limitation. Examine the linked research rather than trusting an agency name alone. Identify one fact that requires local evidence.

[illegible]

2. Integrate evidence responsibly

Write a 4-6 sentence recommendation using a paraphrased fact from EACH real source and a matching parenthetical citation (organization, date or n.d.). Explain why the evidence supports your recommendation and what it cannot establish locally. Do not promise an exact temperature change. Use quotation marks for any exact wording.

3. Check and refine

Compare your wording with both originals. Fix close copying and missing citations; match each citation to your source record. Write a more specific follow-up research question raised by your evidence, and name the local evidence needed to answer it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the fictional Maya case. Underline checkable evidence of credibility or limits; number two ways she avoids plagiarism. Then use the required real print and digital sources for Your Turn. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can the city tree map locate? What additional source is needed to identify specific bus stops?	It locates tree-poor neighborhoods; a bus-stop map is also needed.
2	Give two checkable credibility clues for the university report and one limit on its relevance.	Named authors and described methods make it checkable; its findings do not predict temperatures at particular local stops.
3	Why is the blog's cooling guarantee weaker than the report's claim?	The blog provides no supporting evidence; the report describes a method and limits its claim.
4	What must Maya do when paraphrasing, and what extra step is needed for exact wording?	Use genuinely new wording and cite the source. Exact wording also needs quotation marks.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Example based on the linked sources; students must read them. Source records: U.S. EPA, Benefits of Trees and Vegetation, May 15, 2026, epa.gov/heatislands/benefits-trees-and-vegetation, How Trees and Vegetation Reduce Heat and References; USDA Forest Service, Value of Urban Forests, October 17, 2023, research.fs.usda.gov/psw/projects/value-urban-forests, text immediately before Energy and Infrastructure Conflicts. Both link identifiable research, but neither measures our waiting areas.

Our school should investigate suitable places for shade trees. Trees can reduce heating of outdoor surfaces through shade (U.S. EPA, 2026). Tree planting also needs space and planning to avoid conflicts with sidewalks (USDA Forest Service, 2023). Together these sources support checking both shade needs and site constraints before selecting trees. They do not tell us how much a particular school waiting area would cool.

Follow-up: Which waiting areas have the least afternoon shade and enough space for healthy trees without sidewalk conflicts? We need a site survey and local planting guidance. Paraphrases and citations were checked against both originals.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Require actual reading of both formats, two source records (A/B may refer to the printed titles and URLs), relevant evidence from both, and matching citations. Accept current displayed dates or n.d. when no date appears; access date is separate. Credibility needs a checkable clue beyond an agency name. Accept different supported recommendations. The fictional case is not a third real source.