Trace the Evidence

Evaluate sources, compare evidence, and credit ideas responsibly.

ELA.10.C.4 "Researching"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the three sources Maya compares as evidence. Underline details that show why each source is reliable, relevant, or used responsibly.

Tracing a Water Question

1. For a civic-action project, Maya investigates this question: How could replacing lead service lines affect children's exposure to lead in drinking water? She starts with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements fact sheet, published in 2024. The agency explains federal requirements and links to the rule itself. Maya also finds a 2023 peer-reviewed public-health study that examines blood lead levels in communities with lead service lines. She records the author, date, publisher, key finding, and page or web address for each source in a research log.

2. To understand her city's plans, Maya reads its water utility's 2024 annual report. It lists the number of service lines identified, the testing methods used, and the replacement schedule. She treats it as useful primary information about local operations, not as the only evidence of health effects. A viral post claims that any lead pipe makes water instantly unsafe, but it names no author, date, or evidence. Maya leaves it out. Instead, she compares the EPA fact sheet, the public-health study, and the utility report, noting where their evidence agrees or differs.

3. While drafting, Maya writes, "Federal rules require water systems to identify lead service lines and replace them over time." She places an in-text citation after the sentence and includes the EPA fact sheet in her source list. This is a paraphrase, because it expresses information in her own words rather than copying a source sentence. She would cite a statistic or other borrowed finding even when she paraphrases it. She would use quotation marks as well as a citation only when reproducing the source's exact words. Her final claim will explain that replacing lines is one strategy for reducing a possible route of lead exposure, while evidence from several sources supports the claim.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source would be strongest for evidence about possible health effects of lead service lines? Explain why.

2. Why does Maya use the water utility report but avoid treating it as her only source?

3. What two missing features make the viral post a weak research source?

4. How does Maya avoid plagiarism when she uses information from the EPA fact sheet?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a question about a local or school issue. In 70 to 90 words, name three source types you would use, explain what each could contribute or why it is reliable, and write one paraphrased claim with an in-text citation placeholder.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Evidence

GRADE 10 · ELA.10.C.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the three sources Maya compares as evidence. Underline details that show why each source is reliable, relevant, or used responsibly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source would be strongest for evidence about possible health effects of lead service lines? Explain why.	**The peer-reviewed public-health study, because it examines blood lead levels and has been reviewed by other experts.**
2	Why does Maya use the water utility report but avoid treating it as her only source?	**It provides primary, local information about service lines, testing, and replacement plans, but it is not enough evidence about health effects.**
3	What two missing features make the viral post a weak research source?	**It has no named author, date, or evidence. Any two of these are acceptable.**
4	How does Maya avoid plagiarism when she uses information from the EPA fact sheet?	**She paraphrases in her own words, adds an in-text citation, and includes the fact sheet in her source list.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How could a later school start time affect high school students? I would use a peer-reviewed sleep study for evidence about teen sleep, a district transportation report for bus limits, and a state education department report for attendance data. The study and state report identify their authors, dates, and methods, while the district report gives local details. Paraphrased claim: Later start times may help teenagers get more sleep (Author, year).

Accept equivalent explanations that distinguish source reliability, relevance, and responsible citation. For the open task, accept varied topics and sources if the response includes three appropriate sources, a reason for each, and a paraphrased, cited claim.