Trace the Words

Judge sources by their creators, evidence, and limits.

7.T.C.2.d "Use credible sources to research the answers to questions on academic and individual topics of interes. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that make a source strong, and circle two missing details that make a source hard to trust. Your marks should show why some sources can better answer a research question.

Checking a Famous Speech

1. For a history project, Noor asked, "What did Martin Luther King Jr. say at the March on Washington in 1963?" Her first search showed an unsigned quote page, a video clip from an unknown account, and a page from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. Noor did not choose the first result. She checked who created each page, whether it named its sources, and whether it gave enough details to trace the words back to the event.

2. The Institute's transcript lists the speech date, August 28, 1963, and the location, the Lincoln Memorial. It also explains that the text comes from a recording and identifies the collection that preserves it. Noor treated this as a strong source because a university research institute is responsible for the page and shows where its information came from. Still, one strong source was not enough. She looked for a second reliable source to confirm the date, place, and wording.

3. Noor found a National Archives description of the March on Washington. It confirmed that the march occurred on August 28, 1963, in Washington, D.C., but it did not provide the complete speech text. She could use it to check event facts, not to copy every line of the speech. Noor rejected the unsigned quote page. Without an author, organization, publication date, or links to evidence, she could not judge who wrote it or test its accuracy. Her notes recorded each source, its evidence, and its limits.

CLASSROOM-AUTHORED FICTIONAL SOURCE PACKET: SPRING READING HOUR

Source and responsible creator	Supplied record and limits
A: Event notice by librarian Ms. Lee, March 4	The Spring Reading Hour starts at 3:15 p.m. in Room 12 on March 10. This notice names time and place, but gives no attendance total.
B: Room booking record by office coordinator Mr. Patel, March 5	Room 12 is reserved for the Spring Reading Hour on March 10 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. It confirms the room/date, but does not give the exact event start time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source could Noor use to study the complete wording of the speech? Give two details from the passage that make this source strong.

2. What facts did the National Archives source confirm? Why could Noor not use it to verify every line of the speech?

3. What four missing pieces of information made the unsigned quote page difficult to trust?

4. Why did Noor look for a second reliable source after finding the Institute transcript?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Actually read both supplied fictional classroom records to answer: “Where and when does the Spring Reading Hour begin?” In three sentences, state the question, give a finding from each source with its responsible creator, and answer using the evidence. Explain briefly why these records are useful and one limit. Do not only say what you would consult. Extension: choose another question and plan two credible sources you could check later.

Trace the Words

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that make a source strong, and circle two missing details that make a source hard to trust. Your marks should show why some sources can better answer a research question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source could Noor use to study the complete wording of the speech? Give two details from the passage that make this source strong.	**The transcript from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. It is published by a university research institute and identifies a recording and collection as its evidence.**
2	What facts did the National Archives source confirm? Why could Noor not use it to verify every line of the speech?	**It confirmed the date, August 28, 1963, and the location, Washington, D.C. It did not provide the complete speech text.**
3	What four missing pieces of information made the unsigned quote page difficult to trust?	**It had no author, organization, publication date, or links to evidence.**
4	Why did Noor look for a second reliable source after finding the Institute transcript?	**She wanted to confirm the speech's date, place, and wording instead of relying on only one source.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My question is where and when the Spring Reading Hour begins. Ms. Lee's dated event notice says Room 12 at 3:15 p.m. on March 10, while Mr. Patel's dated booking record independently confirms the room and date. I conclude Room 12 at 3:15 p.m. on March 10 because the responsible creators supply event and room records, but neither record establishes attendance.

Accept other credible sources when students identify a responsible creator and a specific kind of evidence to check. Sources may include museums, universities, government agencies, libraries, scholarly databases, or primary documents with clear information about their origin. Part 3 requires actual consultation of the supplied records, source-labeled findings and an evidence-based answer, not a future plan. Check that booking time 3:00 is not confused with event start 3:15. The packet is explicitly fictional classroom-authored material; it does not authenticate historical websites discussed in the narrative.