Trace the Evidence

Match source evidence to a research question and document each source accurately.

8.T.RA.2.a "Locate evidence in print, digital, and multimodal sources to support a central idea or question, consulting Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines to determine the specific information needed to document particular modes and genres..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's research question. Circle one evidence statement from each source, then number the MLA documentation details mentioned for each source type.

Finding Cooler Blocks

1. To answer the question, "Where could shade trees make our neighborhood cooler?" Maya begins with a printed report from the library. The report explains that tree leaves shade pavement and buildings, while water released by leaves can cool the air. Maya copies a sentence about shade into her notes and writes its page number beside it. For an MLA works-cited entry, she checks the report's author, title, publisher, and publication date. She includes a publisher only when it is distinct from the author and is named in the source.

2. Next, Maya visits an Environmental Protection Agency webpage about trees and heat islands. The page says that trees can lower temperatures by shading surfaces and through evapotranspiration, the cooling that happens when water changes from liquid to vapor. She chooses this digital source because it explains how trees cool places, not just where they grow. Before documenting the webpage in MLA style, Maya looks for an author, the webpage title, the website title, a publication date, and a URL. She also checks for a publisher when one is distinct from the website title and available.

3. Finally, Maya opens the NYC Street Tree Map, an interactive map with symbols, locations, and tree information. Its visual points show several blocks near the playground with few street trees. That multimodal evidence helps her identify a possible planting area, while the report and webpage explain why shade matters. To document the map, she records the map's creator, title, website title, publication date if shown, and URL. She looks for a publisher if it is distinct and available. Because an interactive map can change, she records the date she viewed it.

CONSULT THE REPORT AND ADAPTED MLA REFERENCE

Source or reference	Material to use
Classroom-authored fictional report: Mira Reed, Quiet Reading Spaces, Classroom Learning Office, 2026, page 2. Stand-alone printed report; no separate container.	During one class reading period, the library record listed 4 interruptions, while the corridor record listed 11. The observers used the same fifteen-minute period. This report recommends testing the library for quiet reading. One period does not establish every day's conditions or the cause of the difference.
Adapted MLA reference: MLA Style Center, Works Cited: A Quick Guide. Source: style.mla.org/works-cited/works-cited-a-quick-guide/ . Consult this supplied paraphrase when documenting the report.	MLA orders applicable core facts as author, title of source, title of container, contributor, version, number, publisher, publication date and location. A container is a larger work holding the source. For this stand-alone report, use the author, italicized report title, distinct named publisher and year. Do not invent missing elements or a container. In an evidence sentence, identify the report page: (Reed 2).

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is Maya's central research question, and which source helps her locate a possible planting area?

2. What evidence from the printed report and the webpage explains how trees can cool an area?

3. What MLA information should Maya look for when documenting the interactive map?

4. Why does Maya record a page number for the report and a viewing date for the map?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the supplied report to answer: Which location should the class test for quiet reading, and what evidence supports that choice? Actually consult the report and adapted MLA reference. Write four to six sentences giving an evidence-based answer, the two recorded values, one limit, and which guide elements apply or do not apply to this source. Then create the actual MLA works-cited entry using the given metadata and include (Reed 2) with your evidence. This classroom report is fictional; do not present its observations as actual data from your own school. Additional print, webpage or map source plans may follow, but do not replace the completed source use.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Evidence

GRADE 8 · 8.T.RA.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's research question. Circle one evidence statement from each source, then number the MLA documentation details mentioned for each source type. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Maya's central research question, and which source helps her locate a possible planting area?	**Her question is where shade trees could make the neighborhood cooler. The NYC Street Tree Map helps her locate a possible planting area.**
2	What evidence from the printed report and the webpage explains how trees can cool an area?	**The report says leaves shade pavement and buildings and that water released by leaves can cool the air. The webpage says trees cool by shading surfaces and through evapotranspiration.**
3	What MLA information should Maya look for when documenting the interactive map?	**She should look for the creator, map title, website title, publication date if shown, URL, and a publisher if it is distinct and available. She also records the date she viewed the map.**
4	Why does Maya record a page number for the report and a viewing date for the map?	**The page number shows where her copied report evidence appears. The viewing date records when she used the map because interactive maps can change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The class should test the library for quiet reading. The report records 4 interruptions there and 11 in the corridor during the same fifteen-minute period (Reed 2). That difference is 7 interruptions, but one observation period does not establish every day's conditions or its cause. I used the adapted MLA guide to select the report's author, title, distinct publisher and year; no container is given for this stand-alone work. I recorded page 2 with the evidence so a reader can find the statement.

Works-cited entry:
Reed, Mira. *Quiet Reading Spaces*. Classroom Learning Office, 2026.

Retain the four accurate Maya source/documentation answers. Check actual use of the provided report and adapted official MLA reference, a supported four-to-six-sentence answer with correctly labeled 4/11 values and limit, evidence citation (Reed 2), and an actual entry with author, italicized title, distinct publisher and year. The model has five answer sentences plus a separate entry; 11 minus 4 equals 7. Do not invent a container, URL or date for this printed stand-alone report. Accessible alternate actual sources may use their applicable elements. The guide is a clearly attributed adapted reference, not a fetched full handbook or exact quotation.