Credit the Source

Use signal phrases, citations, and Works Cited entries to show where ideas come from.

8.T.RA.2.c "Follow Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines when integrating textual evidence, clearly identifying and citing the ideas and information of others and ensuring each source is accompanied by a properly formatted entry on a works..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each signal phrase that names a source (an author or an organization), circle each parenthetical citation, and number the two Works Cited entries 1 and 2. These marks show how Maya gives clear credit to her sources.

Maya's Garden Report

When planning a community garden, Maya wants readers to trust her claim about shade. She writes, "According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, trees and vegetation cool nearby areas through shade and evapotranspiration." Because Maya names the organization in her signal phrase, she does not add a parenthetical citation. Her sentence makes clear that the idea comes from a source, not from her own observation. She will still include a full entry for the EPA webpage on her Works Cited page.

Maya also uses a short quotation to connect gardening to a larger idea. Her report states: Carson reminds readers, "In nature nothing exists alone" (51). Her signal phrase gives the author's last name. The number in parentheses directs readers to the page in *Silent Spring* where the words appear. If she had not named Carson in the sentence, her parenthetical citation would need both the author's last name and the page number: (Carson 51) to give credit.

At the end of her report, Maya begins a new page titled Works Cited. She alphabetizes entries by the first item, uses a hanging indent, and gives enough information for readers to find each source. Her list includes: Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin, 1962. It also includes: United States, Environmental Protection Agency. "Using Trees and Vegetation to Reduce Heat Islands." *EPA*, www.epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands. Accessed 26 Aug. 2026. These entries identify the sources she used in the report.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the signal phrase in the first paragraph that names Maya's source.

2. Why does Maya not need a parenthetical citation after her EPA sentence?

3. What information does (51) give readers after the quotation from *Silent Spring*?

4. How are Maya's two Works Cited entries ordered?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one source you have used for a school topic, and write a two-sentence mini-paragraph that paraphrases or quotes one idea from it. Give credit with a signal phrase that names the author or organization, or with a parenthetical citation. If your source has page numbers, put the page number in parentheses right after the borrowed words and before the period, even when you used a signal phrase. Then write a complete MLA Works Cited entry for the source.

ANSWER KEY

Credit the Source

GRADE 8 · 8.T.RA.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each signal phrase that names a source (an author or an organization), circle each parenthetical citation, and number the two Works Cited entries 1 and 2. These marks show how Maya gives clear credit to her sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the signal phrase in the first paragraph that names Maya's source.	**According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
2	Why does Maya not need a parenthetical citation after her EPA sentence?	**She already names the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the signal phrase.**
3	What information does (51) give readers after the quotation from *Silent Spring*?	**It gives the page number where the quoted words appear in *Silent Spring*.**
4	How are Maya's two Works Cited entries ordered?	**They are alphabetized by the first item in each entry, with Carson before United States.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, regular physical activity can improve brain health in children and adolescents. This benefit gives schools a reason to include movement breaks during the day.

Works Cited (sample entry)

"Benefits of Physical Activity." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, https://www.cdc.gov/physical-activity/about/index.html. Accessed 26 Aug. 2026.

Accept clear source credit through either a signal phrase or a parenthetical citation. The Works Cited entry should contain the source title, container or publisher information when available, and a URL or other publication details that allow readers to locate the source.