Evidence Trail

Compare sources, use ideas honestly, and show where information came from.

6W7 "Gather relevant information from multiple sources; assess the credibility of each source; quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others; avoid plagiarism and provide basic bibliographic information for sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Mark the passage: underline the exact quoted words, circle the paraphrased finding, and number three details that help Maya decide whether a source is credible.

A Question About Bottles

1. When the student council considered adding a bottle-filling station, Maya began with a focused question: Would it reduce the number of disposable bottles at school? She found the district facilities report, written by maintenance staff in 2025. It counted 1,240 bottles collected during one month. Because staff members collected the numbers and named their method, Maya judged this source useful. She also found a company advertisement claiming that its station would "end plastic waste." The claim had no study or data, so she did not use it as evidence.

2. Next, Maya used a city recycling webpage updated in March 2025. The city sanitation department explains what materials its trucks accept, so it was a dependable source for local recycling rules. Maya copied one short statement exactly: "Empty bottles can be placed in curbside recycling carts" (City Sanitation Department). She put quotation marks around the copied words and named the source. She paraphrased another finding in her own words: the webpage says bottles must be empty before collection. Her paraphrase keeps the meaning but changes the wording and sentence structure.

③ After comparing sources, Maya concluded that a filling station might lower bottle waste, but she needed a trial to measure the change at her school. In her report, she listed basic bibliographic information so readers could locate her evidence: author or organization, title, date, and web address. Her source list included District Facilities Department, “Waste Collection Report,” 2025, and the report’s web address. Listing sources and using quotation marks showed which ideas came from others. This practice helps a writer avoid plagiarism, which is presenting another person’s words or ideas as one’s own.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which source does Maya judge useful for her question, and what makes it more credible than the company advertisement?

2. What does Maya do when she copies a source's exact words?

3. How is Maya's paraphrase different from copying a quotation?

4. What four pieces of bibliographic information does Maya say a reader needs to locate a source?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school-related question for which your teacher supplies two identified sources. Actually read both and gather one relevant finding from each. In 5 to 6 sentences, answer your question using an attributed quotation or paraphrase from each source and assess each source's credibility using its author, evidence, method, date or purpose. Add a basic bibliography for both: author or organization, title, date (or n.d. if none), and URL or print publication/page/location. Use extra paper for notes and bibliography. Copy exact words only inside quotation marks; keep paraphrases faithful and credited.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Trail

GRADE 6 · 6W7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Mark the passage: underline the exact quoted words, circle the paraphrased finding, and number three details that help Maya decide whether a source is credible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source does Maya judge useful for her question, and what makes it more credible than the company advertisement?	**The district facilities report is useful because maintenance staff collected the bottle count and explained their method. The advertisement gives no study or data.**
2	What does Maya do when she copies a source's exact words?	**She puts quotation marks around the exact words and names the source.**
3	How is Maya's paraphrase different from copying a quotation?	**A paraphrase keeps the original meaning but uses the writer's own wording and sentence structure.**
4	What four pieces of bibliographic information does Maya say a reader needs to locate a source?	**Author or organization, title, date, and web address.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Preparation model only; its proposed sources and expected finding must be checked in actual materials before use: My question is, How can our cafeteria waste less food? I would use the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency webpage "Sustainable Management of Food," n.d., https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food, because a federal agency publishes research-based guidance. I would also use our cafeteria manager's "Monthly Food Waste Log," August 2026, school cafeteria office, because it records waste at our school. I will paraphrase the EPA's conclusion that preventing food waste is the best first step. These entries name each author or organization, title, date, and location, so a reader can find my sources. The completed response must replace future plans with findings actually gathered from both sources, attributed quotations or paraphrases, credibility judgments supported by source features, and a bibliography matching the materials read.

Supply two short accessible sources relevant to one school question, with their actual author/organization, title, date and retrieval or print location. Printed excerpts are sufficient if source details and context are retained. Support question choice and reading. Check each gathered finding and quotation/paraphrase against the original source. Require both relevance and credibility reasoning grounded in identifiable features; an organization's name alone is not proof of every claim. Check that borrowed words are quoted, ideas are credited, and the bibliography lets a reader locate both sources. Assess the 5–6 sentence synthesis separately from notes/bibliography. The example is a prospective plan, not completed research; no invented source or anticipated result earns credit as a finding. Original passage questions remain valid convention practice.