Source Signal

Find evidence that fits a focused research question.

8.12.D "identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every source or type of source named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what information it can provide or why it may not fit the research question.

Cooling the Bus Stop

1 When a city plans for hotter summers, officials need more than one kind of information. A student research team investigating shade at bus stops began with a clear question: Which changes could lower heat exposure for riders? They did not search only for opinions. The team looked for local temperature records, maps of bus stops, reports about tree shade, and comments from people who use the buses. Each source could add evidence, but only if it connected directly to riders' heat exposure and possible changes.

2 Daily readings from the National Weather Service can show when and how often temperatures reach dangerous levels. However, a national article about beach vacations would not help answer the bus-stop question, even if it mentions hot weather. A city transportation map can identify stops with no nearby trees or shelters. A survey of riders can describe where they wait and whether the heat changes their travel plans. The team should record the author or organization, date, main finding, and connection to the question for every useful source.

3 Some information may be interesting but too broad, old, or unrelated. A 2012 report on shade in another climate might offer background, yet it may not describe current conditions in this city. In contrast, recent measurements collected at local bus stops could help the team compare locations. Researchers also need to notice limits. Rider comments reveal personal experiences, but they cannot measure temperature by themselves. By gathering several relevant sources and noting what each one can and cannot show, the team can make a better recommendation.

FICTIONAL CLASSROOM SOURCE RECORDS: CAFETERIA LITTER

Source / date	Recorded finding	Limit
A: Custodian cleanup log, May 6	12 wrappers by the cafeteria door; 3 by the library door.	One day; does not explain why litter was left.
B: Student survey, May 7	9 of 12 respondents say the cafeteria bin is too far from the exit.	Only 12 opinions; not a litter count.
C: Facilities site-walk record, May 7	Cafeteria bin: 30 steps from the exit. Library bin: 3 steps from its exit.	Distance only; does not measure bin use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two sources the team could use. Explain what relevant information each source could provide.

2. Why is a national article about beach vacations not a useful source for the team's question?

3. A researcher finds a 2012 report about shade in another climate. Give two reasons it is not the strongest evidence for this investigation.

4. Why should the team use recent local measurements along with rider comments instead of using only rider comments?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a focused school research question. You may use: Which change could reduce litter by the cafeteria door? Actually consult the three supplied fictional source records, or three accessible sources approved by your teacher for your own question. Record each source identity/date, a finding you gathered, its connection to your question and one limit. Then write one supported recommendation. Use extra paper if needed.

SOURCE / DATE	FINDING GATHERED AND RELEVANCE	ONE LIMIT

ANSWER KEY

Source Signal

GRADE 8 · TEKS 8.12.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every source or type of source named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what information it can provide or why it may not fit the research question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two sources the team could use. Explain what relevant information each source could provide.	**National Weather Service readings show when and how often temperatures reach dangerous levels. A city transportation map identifies bus stops with no nearby trees or shelters.**
2	Why is a national article about beach vacations not a useful source for the team's question?	**It may mention hot weather, but it does not directly address riders' heat exposure or changes at bus stops.**
3	A researcher finds a 2012 report about shade in another climate. Give two reasons it is not the strongest evidence for this investigation.	**It may be outdated, and it may not describe current conditions in this city.**
4	Why should the team use recent local measurements along with rider comments instead of using only rider comments?	**Local measurements can help compare bus-stop locations. Rider comments show personal experiences but cannot measure temperature by themselves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: Which change could reduce litter by the cafeteria door?

A: Custodian log, May 6 | 12 wrappers by the cafeteria versus 3 by the library suggests the cafeteria exit needs attention. | One day; no cause established.
B: Student survey, May 7 | 9 of 12 respondents say the bin is too far; this gives a possible reason. | Small opinion sample, not a litter count.
C: Facilities record, May 7 | The cafeteria bin is 30 steps away versus 3 at the library; placement is worth testing. | Does not measure bin use.

Recommendation: Test a closer cafeteria bin, then gather new cleanup counts. These records suggest a change but do not prove distance caused the litter.

Accept sources that clearly connect to the team's question and explanations that accurately describe a source's useful information or limitation. For the open task, accept varied school issues when the question is focused and each source includes both relevant evidence and a reasonable limit. The supplied records are fictional practice data, not actual local findings. Require actual consultation and three recorded findings with source identity/date, relevance and limits. Accept own questions only with accessible teacher-approved source records. The recommendation may be qualified; these records do not prove causation.