Shade the Evidence

Search, assess, and cite sources for a local decision.

11-12.WHST.8 "Gather relevant information from multiple sources; use advanced searches effectively; assess the relevance, accuracy, and credibility of each source; and fluently integrate information (e.g. paraphrases, summaries, direct quotations…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two search moves, circle two clues about a source's limits or credibility, and number the two page citations in the model draft. Notice how each citation connects a claim to a source.

Should Bus Stops Get More Shade?

(1) A student researching shade at bus stops first searched *bus stops hot* and found advertisements for umbrellas. She refined her search to *site:.gov "bus shelter" shade filetype:pdf*. Quotation marks kept a phrase together, the site operator limited results to government pages, and filetype targeted reports. These moves improved her chances of finding useful evidence, but a search result was not proof that a claim was accurate. Before using a source, she checked who collected its information, when and how it was collected, and whether the source was trying to sell something.

(2) For this classroom case, the following sources are invented. Riverton Transit Office's *Stop Comfort Survey* (2024), page 2, reports that 64 of 80 surveyed riders wanted more shade. Its methods say volunteers questioned riders at four downtown stops during one July week. Riverton County Health Department's *Summer Heat Brief* (2025), page 1, states that prolonged heat exposure can increase health risks, especially for older adults. An undated shelter vendor blog, *Shade Changes Everything*, promises that its product "eliminates heat danger" but offers no measurements. The transit survey addresses rider preferences, not whether shelters prevent illness.

(3) Here is the student's model draft: "Riverton Transit Office reports that 64 of 80 riders questioned at downtown stops wanted more shade (2). Riverton County Health Department explains that prolonged heat exposure can increase health risks, especially for older adults (1). Together, these findings support a limited shelter trial, not a claim that shelters prevent illness." The writer paraphrases both reports, names their authors, and uses MLA page citations so readers can trace each claim. A Works Cited list would supply full publication details. The vendor's claim stays out because its missing measurements cannot establish a health benefit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the student's refined search make government reports easier to find? Explain two parts of the search.

2. Why is the transit survey relevant to bus stop shade, and what limits a claim about all riders?

3. Why is the vendor blog weaker evidence for a health claim than the health brief?

4. In the model draft, what does each page citation let a reader check?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word paragraph advising whether the city should buy shelters for every stop now. Use both reports with MLA page citations, explain one limit of the evidence, and suggest information the city should gather before deciding.

ANSWER KEY

Shade the Evidence

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.WHST.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two search moves, circle two clues about a source's limits or credibility, and number the two page citations in the model draft. Notice how each citation connects a claim to a source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the student's refined search make government reports easier to find? Explain two parts of the search.	**The site operator limited results to government pages, and filetype:pdf targeted reports.**
2	Why is the transit survey relevant to bus stop shade, and what limits a claim about all riders?	**It reports that 64 of 80 surveyed riders wanted more shade, but volunteers surveyed riders at only four downtown stops during one July week.**
3	Why is the vendor blog weaker evidence for a health claim than the health brief?	**The vendor makes an absolute claim without measurements and is selling a product; the health department makes a qualified claim about heat exposure.**
4	In the model draft, what does each page citation let a reader check?	**Page 2 points to the transit survey's rider result. Page 1 points to the health brief's claim about heat risks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city should not buy shelters for every stop yet. Riverton Transit Office found that 64 of 80 riders surveyed at four downtown stops wanted more shade (2). Riverton County Health Department reports that prolonged heat exposure can increase health risks, especially for older adults (1). These findings justify exploring shade, but one week's downtown survey cannot represent every stop. Before committing funds, the city should survey riders in other neighborhoods and compare temperatures at shaded and unshaded waiting areas.

Accept other defensible recommendations if students use both reports accurately, cite the stated pages, identify an evidence limit, and propose useful new information. The sources are invented for this classroom case.