The Bench Decision

Use sources to support a schoolyard proposal

6.W.8 "Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. Assess the credibility of each source. Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words the writer quotes directly from a source. Circle details that help you find a source, then number one reason the science club's data is useful and one reason it is limited.

Where Should the Bench Go?

1. In this sample school project, our class wants to recommend a cooler place for a bench in the courtyard. First, I checked a print booklet, *Cooler School Grounds*, by Lena Ortiz (Green Valley Parks Office, 2024, page 6). It says, "Shade keeps direct sunlight off paved surfaces." The booklet explains that pavement in sunlight may feel hotter than pavement nearby in shade. The author, publisher, year, and page make the claim easy to trace. Still, a general guide cannot tell us how warm our own courtyard was on a particular day.

2. Next, I opened a digital source, the school science club's *Courtyard Surface Log* (school website, September 12, 2025). The club used one infrared thermometer at noon to measure two spots on the same kind of pavement: 91°F in sunlight and 79°F under a tree. The log names its student recorders, lists the tool and time, and gives both readings. Those details help me judge the data, but the club collected readings on only one day. I cannot claim that the shaded spot is always 12°F cooler.

3. A third source, *Bench Bargains* (benchbargains.example, 2025), says every shaded bench stays cool all summer. Its page gives no author, measurements, or method and tries to sell benches. I would not use that claim to make our choice. Instead, I could write: Ortiz explains that shade blocks direct sunlight from pavement (*Cooler School Grounds*, page 6). The science club recorded a 12°F difference between two pavement spots at noon on one day (*Courtyard Surface Log*, September 12, 2025). Naming both sources shows where the ideas and numbers came from.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can you tell which words in paragraph 1 came directly from the booklet? Give one detail that would help you find them in the booklet.

2. Name two details that help you judge how the science club collected its data.

3. Why is the claim from *Bench Bargains* less trustworthy than the club's readings? Give two reasons from the passage.

4. How does the writer credit the club for the 12°F difference without claiming too much?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence note proposing another courtyard spot to test for a bench. Support your plan with information from both the print booklet and the digital log, credit each source, and explain one limit of the evidence.

ANSWER KEY # The Bench Decision

GRADE 6 · 6.W.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words the writer quotes directly from a source. Circle details that help you find a source, then number one reason the science club's data is useful and one reason it is limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can you tell which words in paragraph 1 came directly from the booklet? Give one detail that would help you find them in the booklet.	**Quotation marks show the booklet's exact words. The citation gives page 6.**
2	Name two details that help you judge how the science club collected its data.	**The log names the student recorders and states that they used an infrared thermometer at noon.**
3	Why is the claim from *Bench Bargains* less trustworthy than the club's readings? Give two reasons from the passage.	**The page gives no measurements or method, and it tries to sell benches.**
4	How does the writer credit the club for the 12°F difference without claiming too much?	**The writer names the club's log and date, and says the difference was between two spots at noon on one day.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would test another spot near the courtyard tree because Lena Ortiz explains that shade blocks direct sunlight from pavement in *Cooler School Grounds* (Green Valley Parks Office, 2024, page 6). The school science club measured pavement at 91°F in sun and 79°F under the tree at noon (*Courtyard Surface Log*, school website, September 12, 2025). Because those measurements came from only one day, I would check the new spot before recommending a bench there.

Accept other plausible spots to test. The note should use both sources in the student's own words, include enough information to identify each source, and state a limit such as the single day of readings.