Trace the Source

Match MLA in-text citations to Works Cited entries.

8.W.8.d "Follow a standard format for citation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two in-text citations, circle the matching author surname in each Works Cited entry, and give each citation and its matching entry the same number.

A Garden Takes Root

1 At the imaginary Cedar Creek School, students turned a patch of hard soil into a garden for pollinators. They first watched where sunlight landed during lunch and after school. That small observation mattered: flowers planted in deep shade would struggle to bloom. In a gardening guide, Elena Ortiz recommends choosing a site with at least six hours of direct sunlight (Ortiz 14). The students chose the strip beside the fence, then mapped where each kind of flower could grow without blocking another.

2 Before planting, the group tested whether water pooled near the fence after rain. It did, so they moved the beds uphill, where roots would be less likely to sit in soggy soil. A gardening website suggests covering bare ground with mulch to slow water loss (Chen). After planting, the students spread leaves between the flowers instead of buying plastic ground cover. They recorded which flowers opened first and counted visiting bees from a distance. Their notes could help next year's class decide what to plant.

3 The notes did not prove which flower was best for every garden. They showed what happened in one small place, with one group of students watching closely. Someone reading the report could check the source list to find the guide and the webpage used by the writers. The two sources below are invented for citation practice. Works Cited Chen, Mira. "Keeping Soil Moist in a School Garden." *Community Garden Notes*, 8 Apr. 2024, https://example.org/garden/soil-moisture. Ortiz, Elena. *Small Gardens, Big Changes*. Cedar Press, 2021.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write the book's full in-text citation. Which part tells a reader where to find the information within the book?

2. Write the website's full in-text citation. Which Works Cited author does it match?

3. Copy the complete Works Cited entry that matches (Ortiz 14).

4. What is the final item in the website's Works Cited entry, and how does it help a reader find the source?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use this new, invented source: Nia Patel, *Lunchroom Leftovers*, Bay Press, 2022, page 31. Write one original sentence about a school compost project that cites page 31 in MLA format, then write the source's Works Cited entry.

ANSWER KEY

Trace the Source

GRADE 8 · 8.W.8.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two in-text citations, circle the matching author surname in each Works Cited entry, and give each citation and its matching entry the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write the book's full in-text citation. Which part tells a reader where to find the information within the book?	**(Ortiz 14). The number 14 identifies the page.**
2	Write the website's full in-text citation. Which Works Cited author does it match?	**(Chen). It matches Chen, Mira.**
3	Copy the complete Works Cited entry that matches (Ortiz 14).	**Ortiz, Elena. *Small Gardens, Big Changes*. Cedar Press, 2021.**
4	What is the final item in the website's Works Cited entry, and how does it help a reader find the source?	**The URL, https://example.org/garden/soil-moisture, gives the webpage's address.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school compost project could collect fruit peels from lunch trays (Patel 31).
Patel, Nia. *Lunchroom Leftovers*. Bay Press, 2022.

Accept any original sentence about a school compost project with (Patel 31) and a complete Works Cited entry in the order shown. The sample sentence does not claim that the invented source reports a specific event.