

Credit Trail

Read a model of careful research and source credit.

6.12.I “display academic citations and use source materials ethically; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each parenthetical citation. Circle the quotation marks, and number the details that show Maya uses sources fairly so you can see how writers give credit and help readers find sources.

Maya's Garden Report

- ① For a report about pollinators in the school garden, Maya began with sources from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Xerces Society, a nonprofit that studies invertebrate conservation. She checked each page for an authoring organization, a publication date, and facts that matched another reliable source. Her notes separated her own observations from information she learned. Maya quoted the USDA definition in her report: “Pollinators are animals that move pollen from flower to flower” (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service).
- ② Next, Maya used a short quotation only when a source's exact wording mattered. She introduced the quotation with the group's name, put quotation marks around borrowed words, and added a parenthetical citation. For other information, Maya paraphrased in her own words and still cited the source. She wrote that many different animals can pollinate plants, then cited the Xerces Society (Xerces Society). Maya did not copy sentences into her report or change a source's meaning to make her point sound stronger than the evidence.
- ③ At the end of her report, Maya added a Works Cited list so readers could locate her sources. She listed each organization, page title, website, URL, and access date. Before adding a photo of a monarch butterfly, she checked its license. Maya chose a photograph labeled for reuse and named its creator in a caption. Her list included these entries: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. “Pollinators.” USDA, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/pollinators>. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026. Xerces Society. “Pollinator Conservation.” The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What three checks did Maya make before she relied on information from a webpage?

2 How did Maya show that the USDA definition used the source's exact words?

3 What did Maya do when she paraphrased information from the Xerces Society?

4 What information did Maya include in her Works Cited list, and how did she use the butterfly photo ethically?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a short research note about pollinators using one source named in the passage. Include one paraphrase sentence with a parenthetical citation and one short direct quotation with quotation marks and a citation, then add a matching Works Cited entry.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each parenthetical citation. Circle the quotation marks, and number the details that show Maya uses sources fairly so you can see how writers give credit and help readers find sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three checks did Maya make before she relied on information from a webpage?	She checked for an authoring organization, a publication date, and facts that matched another reliable source.
2	How did Maya show that the USDA definition used the source's exact words?	She named the USDA, used quotation marks, and added a parenthetical citation.
3	What did Maya do when she paraphrased information from the Xerces Society?	She wrote the information in her own words and cited the Xerces Society.
4	What information did Maya include in her Works Cited list, and how did she use the butterfly photo ethically?	She included the organization, page title, website, URL, and access date. She checked the photo's license, chose one labeled for reuse, and named its creator in a caption.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pollinators help plants make seeds and fruit by carrying pollen between flowers (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). The USDA Forest Service explains that pollinators "move pollen from flower to flower" (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). Works Cited: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. "Pollinators." USDA, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/pollinators>. Accessed 4 Aug. 2026.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage questions when students identify the same source-use actions. For the open task, accept another credible source if the paraphrase is in the student's own words, quoted words are marked, citations match the source, and the Works Cited entry gives enough information to locate it.