

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.

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 school issue that could be researched. Write one focused research question, then list three different sources you would gather. For each source, state what relevant information it could provide and one limit.

SOURCE	RELEVANT INFORMATION IT COULD PROVIDE	ONE LIMIT

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)

Research question: Which changes could reduce litter near the school cafeteria? A custodian's weekly cleanup log could show where and when litter is collected, but it may not explain why students leave it. A student survey could identify reasons students do or do not use bins, but answers may be incomplete. A map showing bin locations could reveal whether bins are close to busy areas, but it cannot show how often bins are used.

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.