

Credit the Source

Read a model report and track how it gives credit to sources.

6.21.E “use effective written communication skills, including proper citations to avoid plagiarism; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences that describe a specific way Jordan credits a source. Circle the one sentence that explains why giving credit helps avoid plagiarism.

Jordan's Canal Report

- ① When Jordan prepared a short report about the Erie Canal, he began with notes from a museum article and a state history website. He wrote the main ideas in his own words instead of copying sentences. For example, he explained that the canal linked the Hudson River to Lake Erie and opened in 1825. This widely reported date and connection are common knowledge, so a citation may not be needed. However, Jordan still recorded where he found each detail while researching.
- ② Jordan wanted to use a museum writer's exact description of canal workers. He placed the borrowed words in quotation marks and added a parenthetical citation: (Lopez 14). Quotation marks show that the wording is not his. For a paraphrase, Jordan changed both the wording and sentence structure, then cited the source too. At the end, he included a source entry with the author's name, article title, museum name, and publication date. These details help readers locate the source.
- ③ Jordan also checked statements that sounded like opinions. His sentence, “The Erie Canal was the most exciting project of its time,” is his personal judgment, not common knowledge. He could revise it to make clear that it is his view, but he would need evidence and a citation if he claimed that historians agreed. Jordan did not list sources to decorate his report. He gave credit for borrowed words and ideas so readers could tell his work from someone else's, which helps him avoid plagiarism.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which Erie Canal details does the passage call common knowledge, and why may Jordan not need a citation for them?

2 What must Jordan change when he paraphrases a source, and what must he do after paraphrasing?

3 How does Jordan show that a museum writer's exact words are borrowed? Name both things he uses.

4 Why is Jordan's statement that the canal was "the most exciting project" not common knowledge? What would he need if he claimed historians agreed?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a social studies topic and write a three-sentence mini-report in your own words. Include one parenthetical citation for a borrowed fact, then write a complete source entry on the last line with the author, title, publisher or organization, and date.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences that describe a specific way Jordan credits a source. Circle the one sentence that explains why giving credit helps avoid plagiarism. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which Erie Canal details does the passage call common knowledge, and why may Jordan not need a citation for them?	The canal linked the Hudson River to Lake Erie and opened in 1825. The passage says these are widely reported facts, or common knowledge.
2	What must Jordan change when he paraphrases a source, and what must he do after paraphrasing?	He must change both the wording and the sentence structure. He must cite the source.
3	How does Jordan show that a museum writer's exact words are borrowed? Name both things he uses.	He uses quotation marks and a parenthetical citation, (Lopez 14).
4	Why is Jordan's statement that the canal was "the most exciting project" not common knowledge? What would he need if he claimed historians agreed?	It is Jordan's personal judgment, or opinion. If he claimed historians agreed, he would need evidence and a citation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883 and connected Manhattan with Brooklyn. David McCullough explains that engineer John A. Roebling designed the bridge, but his son Washington continued the work after Roebling died (McCullough). This bridge changed travel between the two growing cities. McCullough, David. *The Great Bridge*. Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Accept accurate answers that use the passage's language or clearly equivalent wording. For the open response, accept any accurate three-sentence report that distinguishes the student's wording from a borrowed fact and includes a citation matching a complete source entry.