Evidence Trail

Use MLA to credit borrowed words and ideas.

10.R.1.F "Cite primary and secondary sources for quoted and paraphrased ideas using a standard method of documentation, such as the Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each rule about MLA citations, circle each model citation, and number the two source types. These marks will help you choose the right documentation when you quote or paraphrase.

Following the Evidence

1. Researchers build trust by showing where each borrowed idea began. A primary source comes directly from the time, person, or event being studied, such as a speech, diary, photograph, interview, or data set. A secondary source examines, explains, or interprets primary evidence. A historian's article that analyzes several Civil War letters is secondary, even though the letters are primary. Before writing, record each source's author, title, publication information, page numbers, and web address when available. Those notes help readers locate the evidence and help writers avoid blending another person's ideas into their own.

2. MLA in-text citations connect a borrowed passage to a full entry on a Works Cited page. For a direct quotation, copy the words exactly, place them in quotation marks, and identify the source. If the author's name does not appear in the sentence, put the author's last name and the page number in parentheses, as in: "…" (Nguyen 18). When a signal phrase names the author, include only the page number in parentheses: Nguyen observes, "…" (18). A quotation should support your point, not replace your explanation.

3. Paraphrasing means restating a source's idea completely in your own sentence structure and wording. It still needs a citation because the idea belongs to the source. In MLA, an online source without page numbers usually needs the author's name in parentheses when the sentence does not name that author. If no author is listed, use a shortened version of the title in quotation marks, for example: ("River Study"). Use the same source details in your Works Cited entry, so readers can match the brief citation to the complete source.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Using MLA, write a sentence that quotes this exact statement from an article by Elena Rivera, page 3: "Trees lower street temperatures."

2. A writer paraphrases a finding from Marcus Chen's report on pages 14–15 but does not name Chen in the sentence. What parenthetical citation belongs at the end?

3. A student uses a diary written by a factory worker during a 1911 strike. Is the diary a primary or secondary source? Explain why in one phrase.

4. A writer paraphrases an online article with no listed author and no page numbers. Its title is "Cooling City Streets." What MLA parenthetical citation should the writer use?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly two sentences about a historical topic you have studied. In the first sentence, quote a primary source using MLA documentation. In the second sentence, paraphrase a secondary source using MLA documentation.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Trail

GRADE 10 · 10.R.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each rule about MLA citations, circle each model citation, and number the two source types. These marks will help you choose the right documentation when you quote or paraphrase. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Using MLA, write a sentence that quotes this exact statement from an article by Elena Rivera, page 3: "Trees lower street temperatures."	**Rivera writes, "Trees lower street temperatures" (3).**
2	A writer paraphrases a finding from Marcus Chen's report on pages 14–15 but does not name Chen in the sentence. What parenthetical citation belongs at the end?	**(Chen 14–15)**
3	A student uses a diary written by a factory worker during a 1911 strike. Is the diary a primary or secondary source? Explain why in one phrase.	**Primary source, a direct record from a person at the time of the event.**
4	A writer paraphrases an online article with no listed author and no page numbers. Its title is "Cooling City Streets." What MLA parenthetical citation should the writer use?	**("Cooling City Streets")**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in his 1963 letter, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." King was arrested in Birmingham in 1963 (National Park Service).

Accept a signal phrase as MLA attribution when it clearly names the author, and require a page number when the source provides pages. In Part 3, accept any accurate primary-source quotation and secondary-source paraphrase that include appropriate MLA-style documentation.