Evidence Trail

Track borrowed words and ideas with MLA citations.

11.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 the exact quotation, circle its parenthetical citation, and label the primary-source example P and the secondary-source example S.

Following the Source

1. Readers need to see where a writer's own thinking ends and borrowed material begins. In MLA style, quotation marks identify exact language, and a parenthetical citation follows the quotation. Abraham Lincoln ended the Gettysburg Address with the phrase "government of the people, by the people, for the people" (Lincoln). The citation points to a matching Works Cited entry, where readers can locate the source. A paraphrase uses a source's idea in new wording and sentence structure. It has no quotation marks, yet it still needs a citation because the underlying idea belongs to the source.

2. A primary source was created by a participant, witness, or institution close to the event being studied. A speech delivered in 1863 can be primary evidence in a study of Civil War language. A later scholar's book can be a secondary source because it analyzes that speech and other evidence. The label depends on the research question, not on whether a source appears online or in print. A reliable paragraph may use both types. The key documentation choice is simple: cite the text, image, interview, or analysis that supplied the words or ideas in your sentence. Do not cite an original document that you did not consult.

3. Works Cited entries give the publication details that parenthetical citations cannot hold. For a book, record the author, title, publisher, and year. For a web page, record the author or organization, page title, website title when it differs from the author, publication date if available, and URL. Alphabetize entries by their first element. In a parenthetical citation, use the author's last name and a page number when the source has stable pages, as in (Garcia 42). When a web source has no page numbers, use the author or organization alone. Place the citation before the sentence's final period.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A student quotes words from this web source, which has no page numbers: Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," 4 July 1776, National Archives. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

2. A student paraphrases an idea from page 75 of Gabor S. Boritt's book The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.

3. A student paraphrases a 2022 historian's article that explains why Lincoln chose certain language in a speech. For a study of Civil War language, is the article a primary or secondary source? Which source should the student cite?

4. Use this source card to write a complete MLA Works Cited entry: Gabor S. Boritt, The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows, Simon & Schuster, 2006.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a primary source and a secondary source about the same topic. Write exactly two sentences: quote the primary source in the first sentence and paraphrase the secondary source in the second, using MLA parenthetical citations. Then add two MLA Works Cited entries.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Trail

GRADE 11 · 11.R.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the exact quotation, circle its parenthetical citation, and label the primary-source example P and the secondary-source example S. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A student quotes words from this web source, which has no page numbers: Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," 4 July 1776, National Archives. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	**(Jefferson)**
2	A student paraphrases an idea from page 75 of Gabor S. Boritt's book The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows. Write the MLA parenthetical citation.	**(Boritt 75)**
3	A student paraphrases a 2022 historian's article that explains why Lincoln chose certain language in a speech. For a study of Civil War language, is the article a primary or secondary source? Which source should the student cite?	**It is a secondary source. The student should cite the historian's article because it supplied the interpretation.**
4	Use this source card to write a complete MLA Works Cited entry: Gabor S. Boritt, The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows, Simon & Schuster, 2006.	**Boritt, Gabor S. The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech That Nobody Knows. Simon & Schuster, 2006.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hughes describes rivers as "ancient as the world" (Hughes), connecting the speaker to a long human past. Poetry Foundation identifies Hughes as a major writer of the Harlem Renaissance (Poetry Foundation). Works Cited Hughes, Langston. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." Poetry Foundation, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44428/the-negro-speaks-of-rivers. Poetry Foundation. "Langston Hughes." Poetry Foundation, www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/langston-hughes.

Accept equivalent MLA punctuation and title formatting. In Part 3, accept any accurate primary and secondary pair if each sentence clearly matches its source and each parenthetical citation matches a Works Cited entry.