Evidence Sleuth

Judge which evidence belongs in a research claim.

7.R.1.C "Evaluate and analyze the relevance, validity, and credibility of each source (primary, secondary, digital, and print), determining what information to include and exclude."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source description. Circle words or phrases that show why Maya should include or exclude information, then number the four sources from 1 to 4.

Will a Garden Cool the Block?

1. When the city proposed turning an empty lot into a community garden, Maya began researching whether the plan could reduce summer heat. She found digital minutes from a city planning meeting held two weeks earlier. The minutes recorded a parks engineer's statement that trees and shaded soil can lower surface temperatures. Because the minutes came from the meeting itself and named the speaker, Maya considered them a credible primary source. Still, the statement described possible benefits, not measured results from the proposed garden.

2. Next, Maya read a printed newspaper article about a nearby town's garden project. The article quoted a university study and reported that volunteers measured cooler pavement beside garden beds during one July afternoon. It was relevant because the town had a similar climate, but Maya checked the article's date and found it was published ten years ago. She could include the reported observation as supporting evidence, while noting that one afternoon of measurements does not prove a long-term effect.

3. Finally, Maya found a social media post claiming that community gardens make every neighborhood cooler by ten degrees. The post gave no author, measurements, or links, so she excluded its claim. She also used a current printed fact sheet from the National Weather Service explaining that shade can reduce temperatures on surfaces exposed to sunlight. Although the fact sheet did not study her city's lot, its expert source and general information made it credible background. Maya planned to separate this background from evidence about the specific garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two details make the city planning minutes a credible primary source?

2. What information from the newspaper article could Maya include, and what limitation should she mention?

3. Why should Maya exclude the social media post's claim?

4. Which source is more relevant to the proposed garden, the city planning minutes or the National Weather Service fact sheet? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences recommending two sources Maya should include and one source she should exclude. Give a reason for each choice, and explain one limit on an included source.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Sleuth

GRADE 7 · 7.R.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each source description. Circle words or phrases that show why Maya should include or exclude information, then number the four sources from 1 to 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details make the city planning minutes a credible primary source?	**They came from the meeting itself and named the parks engineer who made the statement.**
2	What information from the newspaper article could Maya include, and what limitation should she mention?	**She could include the observation that pavement beside garden beds was cooler. She should note that the measurements were from only one July afternoon and the article was published ten years ago.**
3	Why should Maya exclude the social media post's claim?	**The post gives no author, measurements, or links, so its claim cannot be checked.**
4	Which source is more relevant to the proposed garden, the city planning minutes or the National Weather Service fact sheet? Explain why.	**The city planning minutes are more relevant because they concern the city's proposed garden. The National Weather Service fact sheet provides credible general background but does not study that lot.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would include the city planning minutes because they record a named parks engineer's statement about shade and surface temperatures. I would use the National Weather Service fact sheet as background because it is current and expert-based, but it does not study the lot. I would exclude the social media post because it gives no author, data, or links.

Accept other well-supported source choices when students use details from the passage to explain relevance, credibility, validity, or limits. The response must include two sources to use, one to exclude, and a limitation on one included source.