Heat Claim Check

Evaluate sources before building a research claim.

9.R "The student will conduct research and read a series of conceptually related texts on selected topics to build knowledge on grade-nine content, texts and areas prompted by student interest..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's usable evidence, circle details that help judge reliability or limits, and number the two places where she narrows or qualifies her inquiry.

Trees, Heat, and Evidence

1. To investigate whether street trees can reduce summer heat, Maya began with a broad question: How do trees affect city temperatures? A city planning report gave her local temperature readings from shaded and unshaded sidewalks. The report explained when and where workers collected the data, so Maya could judge its methods. She narrowed her question to afternoon sidewalk temperatures near bus stops, where people wait outdoors during hot summer days.

2. Next, Maya found a university study that compared neighborhoods with different amounts of tree cover. Its authors reported averages from several summer days and described limits, including differences in pavement and building shade. A landscaping company blog claimed that trees lower every city street by ten degrees, but it named no study or measurement method. Maya treated the blog as a possible claim to check, not proof before using it in her report.

3. Her sources did not match perfectly. The planning report measured a few bus stops, while the university study compared whole neighborhoods, so their findings answered related but different questions. Maya wrote a claim supported by both sources, then noted that pavement, building shade, and location could change results. When an AI tool suggested an article, she opened the original source, checked its author and evidence, and cited it rather than citing the tool.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What information in the planning report helped Maya judge its methods?

2. Why did Maya not use the landscaping blog as proof?

3. Why could Maya not compare the two main sources as if they measured the same thing?

4. What did Maya do after an AI tool suggested an article?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a heat question about your school area. Write a narrowed research question, name two sources you would use with one reliability check for each, and write a tentative claim that includes one factor that could complicate it.

ANSWER KEY

Heat Claim Check

GRADE 9 · 9.R

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's usable evidence, circle details that help judge reliability or limits, and number the two places where she narrows or qualifies her inquiry. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What information in the planning report helped Maya judge its methods?	**It explained when and where workers collected the temperature data.**
2	Why did Maya not use the landscaping blog as proof?	**It gave a broad claim but named no study or measurement method.**
3	Why could Maya not compare the two main sources as if they measured the same thing?	**The report measured a few bus stops, while the study compared whole neighborhoods.**
4	What did Maya do after an AI tool suggested an article?	**She opened the original source, checked its author and evidence, and cited the source instead of the tool.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How do afternoon temperatures at bus stops near my school differ by tree cover? Sources: a city tree-canopy map, check its update date and data method; local temperature records, check where and when readings were taken. Claim: Stops with less canopy may be hotter, but pavement and building shade could also affect temperatures.

Accept equivalent explanations that use passage evidence. For Part 3, accept varied topics if the question is focused, both sources include meaningful reliability checks, and the claim includes a limiting factor.