

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Sleuth of the Source: A 9th Grade Research & Citation Quest

Can you spot a credible claim in a sea of digital noise? Synthesize complex data and master the mechanics of ethical scholarship.

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**1. When researching the ethical implications of CRISPR gene editing, which source provides the highest level of scholarly rigor for a 9th-grade academic paper?**

**Answer:** B) A peer-reviewed article from the 'Journal of Bioethical Inquiry'.

Peer-reviewed journals undergo a rigorous vetting process by experts in the field, making them the gold standard for academic credibility.

**2. True or False: Using a 'Common Knowledge' exception means you do not need to cite a specific statistic if it is related to a well-known historical event like World War II.**

**Answer:** B) False

While general facts are common knowledge, specific statistics, data points, or unique interpretations must always be cited to maintain academic integrity.

**3. In MLA 9th Edition style, when a source has three or more authors, the in-text citation should use the first author's last name followed by the Latin abbreviation \_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) et al.

'Et al.' is the standard Latin abbreviation for 'and others' used in citations to simplify references to multiple creators.

**4. You are synthesizing information about the Harlem Renaissance. What is the primary purpose of a 'Synthesis Matrix' during your research phase?**

**Answer:** B) To organize themes across multiple sources to identify patterns or contradictions.

Synthesis is the act of combining ideas from different sources; a matrix helps researchers see how different authors address the same theme.

**5. If you are evaluating the 'Currency' of a source regarding the current geopolitical climate in the Arctic, which publication date would likely be the most problematic?**

**Answer:** C) May 2011

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In rapidly changing fields like geopolitics or technology, a source over a decade old (2011) may contain outdated information that ignores recent developments.

**6. True or False: If you rewrite a paragraph from a source in your own words (paraphrasing), you are no longer required to provide an in-text citation.**

**Answer:** B) False

Paraphrasing requires a citation because you are still using the original author's ideas, even if the phrasing is your own.

**7. The 'C' in the CRAAP test for evaluating sources stands for \_\_\_\_\_, which refers to the timeliness of the information.**

**Answer:** B) Currency

Currency is the first element of the CRAAP test, ensuring the information is recent enough for the topic at hand.

**8. Which of the following describes a 'Lateral Reading' strategy when checking the reliability of an unknown organization's website?**

**Answer:** C) Leave the website and search for what other reputable sources say about the organization.

Lateral reading involves looking at outside sources to verify a site's claims rather than relying only on the site itself.

**9. In a Works Cited entry for a digital newspaper article, the name of the publication (e.g., The New York Times) should always be \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Italicized

In MLA style, titles of containers (like books, newspapers, or websites) are italicized, while titles of shorter works (like articles) are in quotes.

**10. True or False: Using AI-generated text in a research paper without disclosure is considered a form of academic dishonesty similar to plagiarism.**

**Answer:** A) True

Academic integrity requires that you give credit for all ideas and writing. Presenting AI-generated content as your own work is deceptive.