

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Your Scholar's Quest: Deciphering the 9th Grade Research Labyrinth

Through 10 high-stakes challenges, you will audit academic credibility and synthesize complex citations found in global archival databases.

1. While scanning a 2023 digital archive, you find a white paper on the 'Great Green Wall' initiative in Africa. Which factor most critically undermines its reliability for an objective academic report?

Answer: B) The data originates from a non-profit solely funded by a specific timber corporation.

Evaluating bias is critical; a source funded by a corporation with a financial stake in the outcome (timber) presents a significant conflict of interest, compromising objectivity.

2. In a formal MLA-style Works Cited entry for a translated work, such as 'The Odyssey,' the translator's name must be included after the title.

Answer: A) True

MLA format requires acknowledging the translator (e.g., Trans. Emily Wilson) because the translation itself is a specific scholarly interpretation of the original text.

3. When synthesizing multiple perspectives on the Industrial Revolution, a student uses a concept called _____ to combine different ideas into a new, original thesis.

Answer: C) Synthesis

Synthesis is the advanced skill of merging various viewpoints or data points to create a unique argument, going beyond mere summary.

4. You are citing a primary source: a 1944 letter from a soldier during the Liberation of Paris. How should the 'medium' be handled in a modern digital citation?

Answer: B) You must specify if you accessed the original manuscript or a digital scan from a museum.

Advanced research requires transparency regarding the container of the source; a digital scan of a letter has different metadata (URL/Database) than the physical artifact.

5. In APA 7th edition, if a journal article has a _____, it should be included as a clickable link at the end of the citation.

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Answer: B) DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

A DOI provides a persistent link to the location of a digital document, making it more reliable for researchers than a standard URL.

6. If you use a 'common knowledge' fact, such as the date George Washington was inaugurated, you must still provide a parenthetical citation in a research paper.

Answer: B) False

Common knowledge—facts that can be found in numerous general sources and are not disputed—generally does not require a specific citation.

7. When evaluating the authority of a source regarding the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, which of the following authors would provide the most 'nuanced' perspective?

Answer: B) A computational ethicist with peer-reviewed publications on algorithmic bias.

A computational ethicist has the specialized expertise and academic rigor (peer-review) to provide a deep, balanced analysis of complex ethical issues.

8. A student finds an anonymous article on a .org website about biodiversity. To check the 'currency' of this source, the student must look for the _____.

Answer: B) Last updated or publication date

Currency refers to how timely the information is. Checking the 'Last Updated' date ensures the scientific data hasn't been outmoded by newer discoveries.

9. Consider this MLA in-text citation: The protagonist's struggle represents the 'duality of man' (Stevenson 42). What is the purpose of including '42'?

Answer: C) It is the specific page number where the quote or idea can be located.

In MLA format, the parenthetical citation includes the author's last name and the specific page number to allow the reader to verify the evidence directly.

10. When writing a research paper, 'summarizing' an entire chapter of a book does NOT require a citation because you are using your own words.

Answer: B) False

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Even if you use your own words, you are still utilizing the author's original ideas, structure, and intellectual property, which must be attributed to avoid plagiarism.