

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sleuth Your Sources: Sophisticated Sophomore Search Skills Quiz

Can you spot the difference between a credible academic claim and a biased blog post? Verify authorship and master the mechanics of MLA and APA formatting.

1. When evaluating a source about the historical impact of the Black Death, which of the following authors would likely provide the most authoritative information?

Answer: B) A university professor specializing in Medieval studies

Expertise and academic background are key indicators of authority; a specialized professor undergoes peer review and deep research.

2. True or False: Using a direct quote from a world leader's speech without mentioning their name in your essay is still considered plagiarism.

Answer: A) True

Failing to attribute words to their original creator, even a famous figure, is a violation of academic integrity.

3. If you are citing a news article from 'The New York Times' in MLA format, what is the correct way to format the title of the newspaper?

Answer: C) The New York Times (Italicized)

In MLA style, titles of larger containers like newspapers, journals, and books must be italicized.

4. In APA style, if an author's name is Maya Angelou, the reference list entry should begin with _____.

Answer: D) Angelou, M.

APA citation style requires the last name followed by the first initial only.

5. Which domain extension is generally considered the *most* reliable for statistical data regarding public health in the United States?

Answer: B) .gov

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.gov websites are restricted to government agencies and are usually primary sources for official data.

6. The abbreviation used in a citation to indicate 'and others' when a book has many authors is _____.

Answer: C) et al.

'Et al.' is the Latin abbreviation for 'et alii,' meaning 'and others,' used to simplify citations with multiple authors.

7. True or False: A works cited page should be organized in the order that the sources appear in your essay.

Answer: B) False

Works cited and reference pages must be organized alphabetically by the author's last name (or title if no author is present).

8. When taking notes on a documentary about the Apollo 11 moon landing, what is the best strategy to avoid accidental plagiarism later?

Answer: C) Paraphrasing in your own words and noting the source immediately

Immediate paraphrasing and source tracking (scaffolding the research process) prevents taking credit for others' ideas.

9. A 10th-grade student is looking for 'peer-reviewed' articles. Where is the most likely place to find these?

Answer: B) A school or university library database

Library databases allow researchers to filter for peer-reviewed journals, which are vetted by experts before publication.

10. True or False: If you find a fact that is 'common knowledge' (like George Washington was the first US president), you generally do not need a citation.

Answer: A) True

Common knowledge refers to information that is widely known and undisputed, which generally does not require a formal citation.