

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

## Answer Key: Rigorous Research & Referencing Riddles for Sophomores

Scholars tackle the ethical complexities of attribution and source validation essential for collegiate-level academic integrity and professional journalism.

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**1. You are analyzing a digitized 1924 pamphlet on urban planning from a local historical society. When assessing its 'currency' for a paper on modern sustainable architecture, how should you evaluate this source?**

**Answer:** B) Treat it as a primary source to understand the historical trajectory of zoning laws.

In 10th-grade research, students must distinguish between source types. An old document is not 'wrong'; it serves as a primary source for historical perspective rather than a source for current technical data.

**2. When a researcher summarizes a complex theory from a scholarly journal without using the author's exact words, they must still provide a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid intellectual theft.**

**Answer:** C) In-text citation

Paraphrasing requires an in-text citation because the idea still belongs to the original author, even if the phrasing has changed.

**3. True or False: If an article is published in a magazine that accepts paid advertisements, it is automatically considered a biased and unreliable source for academic research.**

**Answer:** B) False

Many credible publications (like Scientific American or The Economist) have ads. Reliability is determined by editorial standards and peer review, not the mere presence of advertising.

**4. In a formal research paper using MLA style, which of the following is the most ethically sound way to handle a 'source of a source' (indirect source)?**

**Answer:** B) Use the abbreviation 'qtd. in' to credit the source that provided the information.

Honest scholarship requires acknowledging that you did not see the original work; 'qtd. in' (quoted in) appropriately attributes the middle-man source.

**5. A student finds two conflicting studies on the health effects of a new sweetener. To evaluate them effectively, the student should look for the \_\_\_\_\_ to see if the research was funded by a sugar company.**

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**Answer:** A) Conflict of Interest statement

Disclosing funding sources is critical for evaluating potential bias in scientific and social research.

**6. Which scenario best describes the 'Synthesis' stage of high-level research?**

**Answer:** C) Combining perspectives from three different experts to form a new, original argument.

Synthesis is the sophisticated act of merging multiple viewpoints to support a unique thesis, which is a core 10th-grade standard.

**7. True or False: Using 'Creative Commons' licensed material means you can use the content for any purpose without providing a citation.**

**Answer:** B) False

Most Creative Commons licenses still require 'Attribution,' meaning you must credit the creator even if the work is free to use.

**8. If you are citing a digital article that lacks page numbers, MLA style suggests using the \_\_\_\_\_ or section name in the parenthetical citation if available.**

**Answer:** B) Paragraph number

When fixed page numbers are absent, paragraph numbers (para. 4) or section headings help the reader locate the specific evidence.

**9. You find a blog post by a PhD candidate discussing their dissertation research. Why might this be more valuable than a standard Wikipedia entry, yet less 'authoritative' than a peer-reviewed journal article?**

**Answer:** A) It contains expert knowledge but has not undergone formal vetting by other scholars.

This highlights the nuance of authority; expertise exists outside of journals, but the peer-review process is the gold standard for validation.

**10. True or False: If you translate a paragraph from a Spanish news site into English for your paper, you do not need to cite it because the words in English are your own translation.**

**Answer:** B) False

Translation is a form of paraphrasing; the original ideas and data belong to the source and must be cited to maintain academic honesty.

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