

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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?

- A. Reject the source immediately because it is over 50 years old and factually obsolete.
- B. Treat it as a primary source to understand the historical trajectory of zoning laws.
- C. Use its data as evidence for current population density trends in metropolitan areas.
- D. Cite it as a peer-reviewed secondary source for contemporary engineering solutions.

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.

- A. Glossary entry
- B. Epilogue
- C. In-text citation
- D. Quotation mark

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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)?

- A. Cite only the original author and omit the source where you actually read the quote.
- B. Use the abbreviation 'qtd. in' to credit the source that provided the information.
- C. Claim the information as general knowledge since it has been published twice.
- D. Only list the primary author in the Works Cited page and ignore the secondary author.

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.

- A. Conflict of Interest statement
- B. Table of Contents
- C. Creative Commons license
- D. Glossary of terms

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

- A. Copying a quote from a book and pasting it into a draft.

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- B. Creating a list of alphabetized sources for a bibliography.
- C. Combining perspectives from three different experts to form a new, original argument.
- D. Changing every third word in a paragraph to avoid plagiarism detection.

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

- A. True
- B. False

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.

- A. Word count
- B. Paragraph number
- C. Font size
- D. URL length

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?

- A. It contains expert knowledge but has not undergone formal vetting by other scholars.
- B. Blogs are always considered 'fake news' regardless of the author's degree.
- C. Wikipedia is written by more people, so it is always the most accurate source.
- D. PhD candidates are not allowed to publish their findings until they graduate.

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.

- A. True
- B. False