

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Integrity Gap: Advanced 8th Grade Source Verification Quiz

Scholars apply high-level lateral reading and algorithmic investigation to determine how digital footprints and academic attribution impact scholarly credibility.

1. An 8th-grade researcher finds a white paper on the health benefits of dark chocolate published by 'The Cocoa Research Institute,' which is funded by a major confectionery corporation. Which evaluation criterion is most critical here?

Answer: C) Objectivity: The funding source indicates a potential conflict of interest.

Evaluating transparency and potential bias (objectivity) is essential when a source is funded by an organization that stands to profit from the research findings.

2. Using 'Lateral Reading' involves staying on a single website to check its 'About Us' page rather than opening new tabs to see what other reputable sources say about that site.

Answer: B) False

Lateral reading specifically requires leaving the original site to verify its credibility through independent third-party sources.

3. When synthesizing information for a formal debate on urban planning, a student must use _____ to give credit for a unique idea within the sentence itself, even if they didn't use a direct quote.

Answer: A) In-text citations

In-text citations are required for any paraphrased ideas or data that are not common knowledge to avoid plagiarism and provide a trail to the original source.

4. You are investigating the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. You find a newspaper clipping from 1921 and a modern analysis by a Yale historian. How should you synthesize these sources?

Answer: B) Use the clipping as a primary source for atmosphere and the analysis as a secondary source for context.

Effective research involves balancing primary sources (first-hand accounts) with secondary sources (scholarly analysis) to build a comprehensive narrative.

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5. A researcher discovers that a widely cited study on microplastics has been _____ by the journal due to flawed data. This source is no longer considered credible for academic writing.

Answer: C) Retracted

A 'retraction' is a formal withdrawal of a published paper because the results or methods are no longer considered reliable by the scientific community.

6. Information that is considered 'Common Knowledge,' such as the fact that the Earth revolves around the Sun, does not require a formal citation in an 8th-grade research paper.

Answer: A) True

Facts that are widely known and undisputed across many sources do not require citation, though specific data or expert phrasing of those facts would.

7. Which of the following describes the 'Currency' aspect of source evaluation in the context of a rapidly evolving field like Artificial Intelligence?

Answer: C) The timeliness of the info; a source from 2018 may be obsolete.

In fast-moving technical or scientific fields, the 'Currency' of a source is vital because older data may be inaccurate compared to the latest breakthroughs.

8. To create a high-quality bibliography, an 8th grader must ensure their list of sources is organized _____ to help the reader easily locate specific entries.

Answer: B) Alphabetically

Standard citation styles like MLA and APA require the Works Cited or Reference list to be alphabetized by the first word of the entry (usually the author's last name).

9. If you paraphrase a paragraph from a National Geographic article by changing every third word into a synonym, you do not need to cite it because the wording is now yours.

Answer: B) False

This is known as 'patchwriting.' Even if the words are changed, the original ideas and structure belong to the author and must be cited to avoid plagiarism.

10. Which research strategy is most effective for finding peer-reviewed, academic articles rather than general blog posts or opinion pieces?

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Answer: B) Using a library database or Google Scholar with the 'Peer-Reviewed' filter.

Library databases and specialized scholarly search engines are designed to filter out non-academic content, ensuring the research has been vetted by experts in the field.