

1.1 Searching and evaluating sources

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS keyword 关键词 • authority 权威性 • bias 偏见 • primary source 一手资料

Objective

Search for evidence efficiently and decide whether a source is suitable to cite.

You must be able to:

- turn a broad question into useful keywords
- use quotation marks, minus, and **site:** search operators
- evaluate authority, currency, and bias before citing

1 Worked examples

■ Make the search answerable

Question: Do electric cars produce less carbon dioxide overall?

Use the keywords **lifecycle emissions electric vehicle comparison**. Add **site:gov** to look for a government report. A named author, a stated method, and a publication date make the source easier to defend.

Do not copy a claim before recording its citation. A news story about research is usually a **secondary source** 二手资料; the original study is a **primary source** 一手资料.

2 Practice

2.1 State what **site:gov** does in a search. [1]

2.2 Name one factor, other than accuracy, to check before citing a web source. [1]

2.3 Explain why a whole question written as a sentence may be a weaker search than a small group of keywords. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A student is researching whether social media affects sleep. Write a more focused search query and explain why it is stronger. [4]

3.2 The student finds an undated blog post that sells a sleep-tracking app. Explain why it may be a weak source for the research task. [4]

Solutions

2.1

- It limits results to government domains.

2.2

- Authority, currency, bias, author, method, or date.

2.3

- A sentence includes many unnecessary words.
- Focused keywords are more likely to match studies or reports on the exact idea.

3.1

- For example: `social media sleep adolescents study site:edu`.
- It uses the main concepts rather than a long question.
- `site:edu` can help locate research from an identifiable education or research institution.
- The student must still evaluate the source before using it.

3.2

- The post is undated, so its currency cannot be checked.
- It sells an app, so it may have commercial bias.
- The author and evidence may not be clear.
- A named study or official report with a stated method would be stronger.