

Research Notes — Completed Example

Research question: How do street trees affect hot urban blocks? · One source stays on one sheet so every note remains traceable.

SOURCE DETAILS

Example City Forestry Department · "Street Tree Canopy and Summer Heat" · web report · accessed for practice example · sections 2–3

NOTE 1 · PARAPHRASE

Tree canopy can reduce direct solar exposure on sidewalks and parked cars.
Locator: section 2. Use: background for the shade mechanism.

NOTE 2 · PARAPHRASE

Blocks with mature canopy may still vary because building form, pavement, irrigation, and tree condition affect local temperature. Locator: section 3. Use: limitation / nuance.

NOTE 3 · DIRECT QUOTE

Short quote to verify later: "canopy is one part of the heat landscape."
Locator: section 3. Use only if exact wording adds value; otherwise paraphrase.

SOURCE CHECK

Useful for mechanism and implementation nuance. It is a municipal report, so pair it with independent research before making a broad causal claim.

HOW THESE NOTES MAY BE USED

Possible claim: street trees can reduce heat exposure through shade, but canopy alone does not determine block-level conditions. Combine Note 1 with an independent study on temperature effects; use Note 2 to qualify overgeneralization. Keep the quote marked as exact wording until it is either verified and cited or converted into a true paraphrase.