

Name _____



Cite It or Bite It

Directions - You're about to play the role of a *Source Sleuth* - someone who figures out whether information is trustworthy or just confident-sounding fluff. Read the two AI answers below to the same question. Then decide which statements could really be checked and what kind of evidence you'd need to prove them true.

The Question: "How did skateboarding become popular?"

AI Response A - Confident but Clueless

Skateboarding began in the 1950s when surfers in California wanted something to ride when the waves were flat. They grabbed old wooden planks, screwed on roller skate wheels, and called them "sidewalk surfers." By the 1970s, skateboarding had become an Olympic event watched all over the world. The sport exploded even more in the 1980s when Tony Hawk invented the "kickflip," a move that no one had ever done before. Today, almost every city in America has at least one skate park, proving that skateboarding is the most popular sport among teenagers.

AI Response B - Cited and Specific

According to *The History of Skate Culture* by Maria Smith (2018), skateboarding began in southern California in the 1950s, inspired by surfers who wanted to "surf the streets." Early boards were homemade - just wooden planks with metal roller skate wheels (Johnson, *Ride On: The Story of Skateboarding*, 2020).

Records from *The Skate Museum Archives* (2021) show that the first professional competition happened in Hermosa Beach, California, in 1963. Tony Hawk became a major figure later, landing the first documented "900" spin at the X Games in 1999 (*ESPN Interview*, 1999). Skateboarding finally became an Olympic sport in Tokyo in 2021 (*Olympic News*, 2021).

1. Which response do you trust more - A or B? Explain why using clues from the writing itself (tone, detail, or evidence).

2. Choose two sentences from either response. For each one, decide if it can really be checked, and describe what kind of proof would help you confirm it.

Statement 1: _____

Can it be verified? Circle one: Yes No

What kind of evidence would you need?

Statement 2: _____

Can it be verified? Circle one: Yes No

What kind of evidence would you need?