# Light With Care

A model for using research without overstating it

**10.RL.24** "Utilize responsible and ethical research practices to write clear, coherent products with a command of language suitable for a particular target audience and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two claims credited to a research source, circle two limits on what the research shows, and number two actions residents could take. These marks will help you see how the writer turns research into a useful message without claiming too much.

### A Better Way to Light Our Courtyard

1 At our apartment building, a bright courtyard can feel safer after dark. Yet light that spills upward or through windows can create problems for birds traveling at night. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service explains in its Lights Out guidance that artificial light can disorient migrating birds. That guidance is about a broad risk, not a count of birds harmed at our building. We should not claim our courtyard has caused collisions without local evidence. Residents can still make a practical choice: keep light where people need it and reduce light that serves no clear purpose.

2 Timing matters, too. BirdCast, a migration forecasting project involving the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, provides regional forecasts of nighttime bird migration. A forecast estimates when many birds may be moving through a region; it does not show whether a bird passes our windows or strikes our building. Checking a regional forecast could help the building manager decide when to pay extra attention to unnecessary lighting. That is a proposed use of the forecast, not a result BirdCast reports about this address. Sharing that limit keeps useful research from sounding more precise than it is.

3 For residents, the next steps are small and specific. Close blinds after dark if a room is brightly lit, and switch off empty-room lights. In shared spaces, ask the manager to consider fixtures that aim light downward while keeping walkways visible. The Fish and Wildlife Service's Lights Out guidance supports reducing unnecessary nighttime lighting during migration, but it does not prescribe a lighting plan for this building. A manager must also consider visibility and local rules before changing outdoor fixtures. Our aim is not a dark courtyard; it is light that helps people without spilling where it is not needed.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The writer cites the Fish and Wildlife Service in paragraph 1. What claim does that source support, and what local claim does the writer avoid making?

2. Why would it be misleading to use a BirdCast forecast as proof that birds strike this building?

3. In paragraph 3, which advice is the writer's proposed plan rather than a lighting plan prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service? Explain the difference.

4. How does the writer make the research useful to apartment residents without ignoring their need for visible walkways?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word weather-delay message for your school sports team's group chat using these research notes: The National Weather Service says lightning can strike beyond a storm's rain area and advises waiting at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back outdoors. Credit the source, make your own proposed team plan distinct from its guidance, and use language that fits your teammates.

ANSWER KEY

# Light With Care

GRADE 10 · 10.RL.24

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two claims credited to a research source, circle two limits on what the research shows, and number two actions residents could take. These marks will help you see how the writer turns research into a useful message without claiming too much. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | The writer cites the Fish and Wildlife Service in paragraph 1. What claim does that source support, and what local claim does the writer avoid making? | **The source supports the claim that artificial light can disorient migrating birds. The writer avoids claiming that this building has caused bird collisions without local evidence.** |
| 2 | Why would it be misleading to use a BirdCast forecast as proof that birds strike this building? | **BirdCast forecasts regional migration. It does not show whether birds pass the building or strike it.** |
| 3 | In paragraph 3, which advice is the writer's proposed plan rather than a lighting plan prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Service? Explain the difference. | **Asking the manager to consider downward-aimed fixtures while keeping walkways visible is the writer's proposal. The agency supports reducing unnecessary nighttime light but does not prescribe a plan for this building.** |
| 4 | How does the writer make the research useful to apartment residents without ignoring their need for visible walkways? | **The writer suggests actions residents can take, such as closing blinds and turning off empty-room lights, while asking the manager to consider fixture changes that keep walkways visible.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Team, if you hear thunder during practice, head indoors even if it is not raining on our field. The National Weather Service says lightning can strike beyond a storm's rain area and advises waiting at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back outside. My suggestion is that we meet in the gym and have a coach check the time of the last thunder before practice resumes. That gym plan is our team's choice, not a National Weather Service requirement.

Accept equivalent wording when students distinguish a source's claims from local conclusions or the writer's proposals. For Part 3, check the 65 to 85 word limit, accurate source credit, a clearly separate team plan, and a tone suited to teammates.