

Evidence Without Hype

Notice how a field report uses precise evidence and qualified conclusions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.2e "Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences that report either a data-collection total or a temperature average. Circle each use of these formal reporting verbs: *recorded*, *indicated*, *establish*, *support*, and *presented*. These features help a field report remain precise and objective.

Streamside Shade Investigation

- ① During a six-week survey in May and June 2025, a field team monitored water temperature in Mill Creek, a tributary in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The team selected three sites: an unshaded reach, a reach bordered by young trees, and a reach beneath mature cottonwoods. At each site, a calibrated data logger recorded temperature every 30 minutes. This method produced 2,016 readings per site. The investigation examined whether streamside shade was associated with lower afternoon temperatures, a condition relevant to cold-water fish habitat during summer months.
- ② Results indicated a consistent pattern. At 3:00 p.m., the unshaded reach averaged 19.4°C, while the mature-cottonwood reach averaged 15.8°C. The young-tree reach averaged 17.1°C. Because weather conditions varied across the six-week survey period, the findings do not establish that shade alone caused the difference. However, the measured temperatures support further study of riparian planting as one possible management strategy. The report does not claim that planting trees will immediately and reliably restore all creek conditions or remove other sources of stream warming entirely.
- ③ Field reports use units, site descriptions, and qualified conclusions so that other investigators can evaluate the work. In this report, the term *riparian* refers to land beside a stream, and °C identifies degrees Celsius. The team's records, including logger settings and sampling times, would allow a later study to compare procedures. A formal report also separates observation from recommendation. Therefore, the temperature results are presented before the suggested management strategy, and the strategy is described as possible rather than certain. This organization makes the basis for the recommendation visible to readers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy the sentence in paragraph 1 that reports the data-collection total.

2 Copy the clause in paragraph 2 that prevents the report from claiming a cause-and-effect relationship.

3 Why does paragraph 3 define the term *riparian*? Answer in one sentence using a detail from the paragraph.

4 Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that states a formal report separates observation from recommendation.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90-110-word field-report paragraph about this investigation: At 2:00 p.m. on two clear September afternoons, a team measured surface temperature at a paved school courtyard, 31.2°C, and a nearby garden bed, 27.6°C. Use a formal, objective tone; include both measurements, define or correctly use the term *surface temperature*, and state a qualified conclusion that does not claim the garden caused the difference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences that report either a data-collection total or a temperature average. Circle each use of these formal reporting verbs: *recorded*, *indicated*, *establish*, *support*, and *presented*. These features help a field report remain precise and objective. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence in paragraph 1 that reports the data-collection total.	This method produced 2,016 readings per site.
2	Copy the clause in paragraph 2 that prevents the report from claiming a cause-and-effect relationship.	the findings do not establish that shade alone caused the difference
3	Why does paragraph 3 define the term <i>riparian</i> ? Answer in one sentence using a detail from the paragraph.	The definition gives readers a precise shared meaning for a field-report term so they can evaluate the work.
4	Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that states a formal report separates observation from recommendation.	A formal report also separates observation from recommendation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During two clear September afternoons, investigators measured surface temperature at 2:00 p.m. in two school locations. Surface temperature is the temperature of the material at the ground's exterior. The paved courtyard measured 31.2°C, whereas the nearby garden bed measured 27.6°C. These measurements indicate that the garden bed was cooler during the recorded observations. Because the investigation included only two afternoons and did not control other conditions, the results do not establish that vegetation alone caused the difference. Additional measurements across varied weather conditions, over time, and at more sites on campus would provide a broader basis for evaluating the pattern.

Accept quoted answers with minor punctuation differences. For the open response, accept varied wording if it is 90-110 words, includes both measurements, uses or defines surface temperature accurately, maintains formal objective language, and qualifies the conclusion.