Evidence Without Hype

Read a formal facilities report and examine its evidence-based tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1d "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 two statements that use evidence or measurable criteria. Circle two words or phrases that limit a claim instead of overstating it.

Solar Canopy Review

1. To evaluate whether the district should replace one parking lot with a solar canopy, the facilities committee reviewed electricity records from 2023 and 2024. The school used an average of 1.8 million kilowatt-hours each year. A canopy would not eliminate this demand, but an engineering estimate indicates that it could supply about 320,000 kilowatt-hours annually. Therefore, the committee recommends studying the project's cost and structural requirements before approving construction for campus use.

2. Supporters may argue that the canopy would visibly demonstrate the district's environmental goals. That benefit is relevant, yet it does not by itself establish financial value. The committee should compare the estimated energy production with installation, maintenance, and financing costs. It should also examine shading effects, drainage, and access for emergency vehicles. These criteria allow decision makers to assess the proposal using measurable evidence rather than personal preference or public opinion.

3. Some residents have described solar power as an obvious solution to rising utility bills. This wording overstates what the available information shows. Utility savings depend on panel output, electricity rates, weather, and the terms of any financing agreement. A formal report should state these limits directly. For example, the committee can conclude that the canopy may reduce purchased electricity, while noting that a final recommendation requires verified bids and a site-specific engineering review.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which recommendation in paragraph 1 is supported by the evidence, and what action is postponed?

2. Copy one phrase from paragraph 1 that limits the claim about the canopy's energy production.

3. How does paragraph 2 acknowledge a benefit without treating it as proof of financial value?

4. Why does paragraph 3 reject the phrase "obvious solution," and what more precise claim does it offer?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Using the data below, write two formal sentences, 35 to 50 words total, for a school board report. Recommend a next step about extending library hours, use the survey data, and name one limit: 312 students responded, 68 percent favored Saturday hours, and staffing would cost $4,800 per semester.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · WHST.11-12.1d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two statements that use evidence or measurable criteria. Circle two words or phrases that limit a claim instead of overstating it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which recommendation in paragraph 1 is supported by the evidence, and what action is postponed?	**The committee recommends studying costs and structural requirements. It postpones approving construction.**
2	Copy one phrase from paragraph 1 that limits the claim about the canopy's energy production.	**"could supply about 320,000 kilowatt-hours annually"**
3	How does paragraph 2 acknowledge a benefit without treating it as proof of financial value?	**It says the environmental benefit is relevant, but it does not by itself establish financial value.**
4	Why does paragraph 3 reject the phrase "obvious solution," and what more precise claim does it offer?	**The phrase overstates the available information because savings depend on several factors. The report says the canopy may reduce purchased electricity.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The survey suggests that Saturday library hours may meet student demand, since 68 percent of respondents favored the change. Before approving the schedule, the board should compare the projected $4,800 semester staffing cost with expected attendance, because the survey does not show how often students would use the library.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the passage's evidence, qualifiers, and cautious conclusions. For the open response, require two sentences, 35 to 50 words, a formal objective tone, the survey data, a next step, and a stated limitation.