

Evidence in Focus

Analyze how a technical report balances precision, clarity, and evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2d "Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline domain-specific terms, circle the analogy or metaphor, and number two sentences that show what the evidence does and does not support.

Reporting a Water Test Result

- ① When a school tests drinking water, a result is not simply a number on a report. It is evidence that must be interpreted against the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 15 parts per billion for lead in drinking water. Lead can enter water when it corrodes from pipes, solder, faucets, or fixtures, especially after water has sat unused. Because children are developing, exposure to lead is a public-health concern. A careful facilities report should name the sampling location, explain the result, and distinguish a single sample from the condition of an entire building.
- ② Consider a hypothetical sample. If a first-draw sample from a cafeteria fountain measures 18 ppb, the finding exceeds the EPA action level, but it does not prove every outlet is contaminated. The sample is a flashlight beam, illuminating one point in a plumbing system rather than mapping the whole network. A technical recommendation could call for additional samples, prompt removal of the fountain from service, and consultation with the district's water utility. This language avoids panic and false reassurance. It tells administrators what the data support, what remains uncertain, and which next steps can reduce students' exposure.
- ③ The report's style should match its readers. For a facilities manager, terms such as corrosion, first-draw sampling, fixture, and action level make the method and decision criteria clear. For families, the writer should retain essential accuracy while explaining that ppb means parts of lead in one billion parts of water. An analogy can help: one part per billion is like one drop in a large swimming pool, although the exact comparison depends on pool size. A credible writer cites the result, states limits, and recommends a response without claiming certainty beyond the evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the metaphor “a flashlight beam” communicate about a single water sample?

2 Name two domain-specific terms the writer uses for a facilities manager. What do these terms make clear?

3 Why does the writer recommend additional samples after the hypothetical 18 ppb result instead of claiming that every outlet is contaminated?

4 How does paragraph 3 make the information accessible to families while keeping it accurate? Identify both a definition and an analogy.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word recommendation to a school board about installing a rain garden beside a parking lot to reduce stormwater runoff. Use at least two domain-specific terms, include one analogy, state a clear recommendation, and acknowledge one limit or condition.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline domain-specific terms, circle the analogy or metaphor, and number two sentences that show what the evidence does and does not support. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the metaphor “a flashlight beam” communicate about a single water sample?	It shows that one sample illuminates one point in the plumbing system, not the condition of the entire network.
2	Name two domain-specific terms the writer uses for a facilities manager. What do these terms make clear?	Answers may include corrosion, first-draw sampling, fixture, and action level. They clarify the testing method and the criteria for making a decision.
3	Why does the writer recommend additional samples after the hypothetical 18 ppb result instead of claiming that every outlet is contaminated?	The result exceeds the action level at one fountain, but a single sample cannot prove that every outlet has lead contamination.
4	How does paragraph 3 make the information accessible to families while keeping it accurate? Identify both a definition and an analogy.	It defines ppb as parts of lead in one billion parts of water and compares one part per billion to one drop in a large swimming pool.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend installing a rain garden along the east parking lot, where the impervious asphalt sends stormwater quickly toward the curb. Native plants and amended soil can increase infiltration, slowing runoff before it reaches the storm drain. The garden would work like a sponge at the edge of the lot, holding water long enough for it to soak into the ground. It will not eliminate flooding during every intense storm, so the plan should include an overflow route and routine maintenance. Before construction, the board should confirm soil drainage and locate underground utilities. This design offers a practical, visible way to manage ordinary rainfall.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect precise vocabulary, figurative comparison, and limits of evidence to the intended audience. For the writing task, accept varied recommendations if they meet the length, vocabulary, analogy, stance, and limitation requirements.