Evidence in Action

Academic language reveals how evidence supports public-health decisions.

ELA.10.V.1.1 "Integrate academic vocabulary appropriate to grade level in speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six academic words or phrases that show how researchers investigate, evaluate, or communicate ideas. Circle nearby words that help you infer each underlined term's meaning.

John Snow and the Broad Street Pump

1. In 1854, a severe cholera outbreak struck London's Soho neighborhood. Physician John Snow did not accept the common assumption that foul air caused the disease. Instead, he analyzed evidence from households affected by cholera and mapped the cases. His investigation revealed a dense cluster near the Broad Street water pump. Snow's map did not prove every detail at once, but it offered a compelling pattern. By comparing locations, he formed a hypothesis that contaminated water, rather than air, was transmitting the illness. This approach changed how officials considered the outbreak.

2. Snow persuaded local officials to remove the pump handle, limiting residents' access to that water source. The action was not a complete experiment, because the outbreak was already declining, yet it had practical significance. Later research identified cholera as an infection caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholerae, usually spread when people consume contaminated food or water. Snow's work illustrates how a claim becomes more credible when it rests on observable data. It also shows that public decisions can require action before researchers possess perfect certainty.

3. Today, health agencies use surveillance to detect unusual patterns of illness. When several people report similar symptoms, investigators collect samples, interview patients, and evaluate possible sources. Their conclusions must distinguish correlation from causation. For example, two events may occur together without one producing the other. Clear communication is also essential: agencies must explain the evidence, acknowledge uncertainty, and recommend proportionate safeguards. These practices support an equitable response, because accurate information and clean water should reach every community, not only neighborhoods with the most resources. Snow's investigation remains a useful model for evidence-based public health.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which academic word describes Snow's careful study of evidence?

2. Which phrase in paragraph 2 explains why Snow's claim became trustworthy?

3. Explain "distinguish correlation from causation" using the example in paragraph 3.

4. Find the academic adjective that describes a fair response for all communities. What does it mean in this passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school or community health or safety issue. In exactly three sentences, state a claim, name evidence that could be gathered, and recommend a proportionate, equitable response. Use at least three academic words or phrases from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence in Action

GRADE 10 · ELA.10.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six academic words or phrases that show how researchers investigate, evaluate, or communicate ideas. Circle nearby words that help you infer each underlined term's meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which academic word describes Snow's careful study of evidence?	**analyzed**
2	Which phrase in paragraph 2 explains why Snow's claim became trustworthy?	**rests on observable data**
3	Explain "distinguish correlation from causation" using the example in paragraph 3.	**Two events can occur together without one event causing the other.**
4	Find the academic adjective that describes a fair response for all communities. What does it mean in this passage?	**equitable; serving every community, not only those with the most resources**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To investigate frequent headaches in one school wing, staff should collect observable data about when symptoms occur and evaluate possible sources. Although a correlation between headaches and that wing may not establish causation, the evidence could support a credible claim that poor ventilation contributes to the problem. The school should recommend proportionate safeguards, such as testing air quality, and communicate an equitable plan to all families.

Accept accurate synonyms when students identify or explain academic vocabulary, as long as their evidence comes from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied issues if the response has exactly three sentences, includes a claim, evidence, a response, and at least three passage terms used correctly.