Words That Work

Study how precise academic vocabulary clarifies a civic proposal.

ELA.11.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 at least six academic vocabulary words or phrases in the passage. In the margin, write a brief synonym or definition for three underlined terms using nearby context.

Cooling a City Fairly

1 On summer afternoons, pavement and dark roofs absorb sunlight, then release heat after sunset. This pattern contributes to the urban heat island effect, in which cities are often warmer than nearby rural areas. City planners can mitigate this effect by expanding tree canopy, the layer of leaves and branches that shades streets and buildings. Trees also cool air through evaporation. However, canopy is not distributed evenly. In many neighborhoods, residents with lower incomes have less access to shade, a disparity that can intensify heat-related health risks.

2 To identify priority areas, researchers combine satellite images with temperature readings collected by volunteers. Their data reveal a correlation between sparse canopy and higher nighttime temperatures. Correlation does not establish that one factor alone causes the other, because building materials, traffic, and access to air conditioning can also influence local conditions. Still, the evidence helps officials formulate an intervention. For example, a city might replace an empty paved lot with a small park, install reflective roofs on public buildings, and measure whether these changes reduce temperatures over several summers.

3 An effective heat plan must be both evidence-based and equitable. Officials should consult residents, especially people who work outdoors or rely on public transit, before selecting projects. They can then allocate funds according to measured need rather than political visibility. Clear evaluation is essential: after a project begins, planners should compare new temperature data, energy use, and emergency-room visits with earlier records. If results are limited, the city can revise its strategy. This iterative approach treats public spending as a claim to be tested, not as a promise that automatically succeeds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does mitigate mean as it describes the urban heat island effect?

2. What caution does the writer give about interpreting the correlation in paragraph 2?

3. What does intervention mean in paragraph 2? Use one example from the paragraph to support your answer.

4. How do the words equitable and allocate work together in paragraph 3 to describe a funding decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence proposal for improving a school issue other than outdoor heat. Integrate at least four academic vocabulary words or phrases from the passage, and use each term accurately in context.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Work

GRADE 11 · ELA.11.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least six academic vocabulary words or phrases in the passage. In the margin, write a brief synonym or definition for three underlined terms using nearby context. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does mitigate mean as it describes the urban heat island effect?	**To reduce or lessen the effect.**
2	What caution does the writer give about interpreting the correlation in paragraph 2?	**A correlation does not prove that one factor alone causes the other because other conditions can influence local temperatures.**
3	What does intervention mean in paragraph 2? Use one example from the paragraph to support your answer.	**It means a planned action meant to address a problem, such as creating a small park or installing reflective roofs.**
4	How do the words equitable and allocate work together in paragraph 3 to describe a funding decision?	**They show that officials should distribute funds fairly according to measured need, not political visibility.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To mitigate cafeteria waste, the student council proposes an intervention that places labeled compost bins beside lunch tables. An equitable plan would allocate bins and signs to every lunch period, not only the busiest one. After a month, an evaluation will compare the weight of discarded food with earlier records and guide an iterative revision.

Accept accurate synonyms and explanations that use passage context. For Part 3, accept varied school issues if the response has three sentences and uses at least four passage terms accurately and meaningfully.