Words With Purpose

See how academic vocabulary makes an explanation exact.

ELA.7.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 five academic vocabulary words that make the investigation or proposal more exact. Circle one nearby clue for each underlined word that helps show its meaning.

Tracking City Heat

1 On a hot July afternoon, a team of middle school students investigated why some blocks in their city felt warmer than others. They used thermometers to measure sidewalk temperatures near trees, parking lots, and bus stops. Their data showed a clear pattern: pavement in an open parking lot was much hotter than grass beneath a large oak. The students did not assume that one reading proved their idea. Instead, they collected evidence at several locations and recorded the time, weather, and surface type for each measurement.

2 Next, the group analyzed possible factors behind the temperature difference. Dark asphalt absorbed more sunlight than pale concrete, while tree leaves created shade and released water vapor. These conditions can contribute to an urban heat island, an area where buildings and roads make a city warmer than nearby rural land. The students compared their findings with a map of tree cover. The comparison supported their claim that neighborhoods with fewer trees may experience a more significant heat impact. However, they noted that traffic, building materials, and wind could also influence the results.

3 To communicate their conclusion, the students prepared a proposal for the city parks department. They recommended planting shade trees near bus stops and replacing some unused pavement with planted areas. Their proposal explained the potential benefits, including cooler waiting spaces and less heat absorbed by surfaces. It also acknowledged a limitation: young trees need years to grow large enough to provide substantial shade. City leaders could evaluate the strategy by measuring temperatures before and after the changes. The group understood that a precise explanation, supported by data, could help others make informed decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write the two academic words in paragraph 1 that name information the students used. Then explain what each word means in the investigation.

2. In paragraph 2, what does significant most nearly mean in the phrase “significant heat impact”? Explain how this word strengthens the claim.

3. The passage uses the academic word limitation in paragraph 3. What limitation does it name, and why does including it make the proposal more credible?

4. Complete the sentence with an academic vocabulary word from paragraph 3: “City leaders should _____ the tree-planting strategy by comparing temperatures before and after the changes.” What does that word mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences proposing a way to reduce heat at one place in or near your school. Use at least three academic vocabulary words from the passage accurately, and include one piece of evidence you would collect and one limitation of your plan.

ANSWER KEY

Words With Purpose

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline five academic vocabulary words that make the investigation or proposal more exact. Circle one nearby clue for each underlined word that helps show its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write the two academic words in paragraph 1 that name information the students used. Then explain what each word means in the investigation.	**Data are the recorded measurements and details. Evidence is collected information that supports an idea or claim.**
2	In paragraph 2, what does significant most nearly mean in the phrase "significant heat impact"? Explain how this word strengthens the claim.	**Significant means important or noticeable. It shows that the heat impact may be substantial, not just present.**
3	The passage uses the academic word limitation in paragraph 3. What limitation does it name, and why does including it make the proposal more credible?	**Young trees need years to provide substantial shade. Naming this constraint shows that the students considered a challenge in their plan.**
4	Complete the sentence with an academic vocabulary word from paragraph 3: "City leaders should _____ the tree-planting strategy by comparing temperatures before and after the changes." What does that word mean?	**Evaluate. It means to assess or judge how well the strategy works.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install shade sails over the blacktop seating area. Evidence from afternoon temperature readings could help leaders evaluate whether this strategy produces a significant decrease in heat. One limitation is that the sails may need repairs after strong storms.

Accept accurate academic vocabulary choices from the passage when students use each word in a way that fits its meaning. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, at least three correctly used academic words, proposed evidence, and a realistic limitation.