Words Build Evidence

Track how academic vocabulary strengthens an evidence-based proposal.

ELA.9.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 that name research, reasoning, or civic planning. Number three words whose surrounding sentences help you infer their meanings.

Cooling Riverton's Streets

1 Last July, students in Riverton investigated why some blocks felt much hotter than others during the afternoon. Their project began with a question: How does neighborhood design influence local temperature? Teams used thermometers to collect data at bus stops, playgrounds, and shaded sidewalks. They recorded the surface temperature of pavement and grass at the same time each day. To make the comparison valid, students controlled variables such as the measuring time and the height of each thermometer. Their initial observations suggested that places with fewer trees often had warmer surfaces.

2 Next, the class analyzed its data with a city planner. The planner explained that dark pavement absorbs more solar energy than a leafy tree canopy. This pattern is part of the urban heat island effect, in which built areas can be warmer than nearby rural areas. The students did not claim that pavement was the only cause. Instead, they evaluated several factors, including building density, shade, and access to water. Their evidence showed a correlation between tree cover and cooler readings, but they understood that correlation alone does not prove causation. Additional measurements would strengthen their conclusion.

3 Using the findings, students drafted a proposal for the town council. They recommended planting native shade trees near frequently used bus stops and replacing a small section of asphalt with a rain garden. The proposal cited their temperature measurements as evidence and acknowledged a limitation: the study lasted only one week. Students argued that the plan could mitigate heat exposure while also improving stormwater drainage. They emphasized equitable access, noting that residents who wait for buses should have shaded places to stand. By using precise academic vocabulary, the proposal made its reasoning clear and its recommendation more credible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which academic word in paragraph 1 names the factors students kept the same to make their comparison valid?

2. In paragraph 2, what does the word correlation mean in the students' conclusion?

3. Which word in paragraph 3 means to reduce the harmful effects of heat? Explain what the proposal would reduce.

4. What does equitable access mean in the proposal, and which group does the passage identify as needing it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one hot place on or near your school. Write exactly two sentences that recommend a solution, name a type of evidence to collect, and acknowledge one limitation. Use at least three academic vocabulary words from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Words Build Evidence

GRADE 9 · ELA.9.V.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least six academic vocabulary words that name research, reasoning, or civic planning. Number three words whose surrounding sentences help you infer their meanings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which academic word in paragraph 1 names the factors students kept the same to make their comparison valid?	**Variables.**
2	In paragraph 2, what does the word correlation mean in the students' conclusion?	**A relationship between tree cover and cooler readings. It does not prove that tree cover caused the cooler readings.**
3	Which word in paragraph 3 means to reduce the harmful effects of heat? Explain what the proposal would reduce.	**Mitigate. The plan would reduce heat exposure for people, especially residents waiting at bus stops.**
4	What does equitable access mean in the proposal, and which group does the passage identify as needing it?	**Equitable access means fair access to shaded places. The passage identifies residents who wait for buses.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should evaluate shade in the parking lot and plant native trees where data show the highest afternoon temperatures. This strategy could mitigate heat exposure, although one week of measurements is a limitation and more evidence is needed.

Accept accurate explanations of the academic terms that use details from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied recommendations if the response has exactly two sentences, includes three or more passage vocabulary words, evidence, and a realistic limitation.