Words Shape Plans

Trace how precise vocabulary helps people use evidence and make decisions.

10.L.V.1 "General, Academic, & Specialized Vocabulary: Use expanding vocabulary knowledge to interpret texts and to craft effective communications across a wide variety of real-life, academic, disciplinary, technical, and professional contexts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that would be useful in an academic, scientific, or planning setting. For each one, circle nearby words that help you infer its meaning or use.

Mapping Heat for a Cooler City

1 On a July morning, students in Riverton joined city planners to map heat across their neighborhood. They carried small sensors that recorded air temperature every minute as they walked the same route. At each stop, the team noted pavement, trees, traffic, and whether people could rest nearby. The project did not measure the day's highest temperature alone. Instead, it compared conditions block by block, because a bus stop beside a wide road can feel far hotter than a park path under mature oaks. Their map would help planners decide where cooling efforts were most urgent.

2 Back at school, the class examined the data using a shared spreadsheet. A science teacher asked them to identify patterns rather than rely on a single reading. Several blocks with dark roofs and little tree cover stayed warm after sunset. One student proposed planting trees, while another suggested lighter roof materials. The group learned that a surface's albedo, or its ability to reflect sunlight, affects how much solar energy it absorbs. A bright roof can send more light away than black asphalt. This finding gave the students evidence to support a practical recommendation, not merely a personal preference.

3 City planners later used the map during a public meeting about a proposed library branch. Residents wanted a safe place to wait for buses and walk from nearby apartments. The planners described a heat-mitigation plan that included shade trees, a covered waiting area, and pale pavement around the entrance. They also explained that the design must meet accessibility requirements, such as a smooth route for wheelchair users. Some residents initially thought pale pavement would look strange. When planners connected the choice to cooler ground temperatures, the proposal became easier to evaluate. The meeting showed how word choice can make technical evidence useful in a community decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does conditions mean? Use details from the paragraph to explain.

2. What is the purpose of the heat-mitigation plan in paragraph 3? What details help you infer this purpose?

3. Which word is most specialized to a science discussion, albedo, map, or residents? Explain how the passage shows its meaning.

4. Why do the planners use the phrase accessibility requirements instead of only saying that the route should be smooth?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence note for residents about one improvement to a public place. Use one general word, one academic word, and one specialized term, and make the specialized term understandable through a nearby context clue.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · 10.L.V.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that would be useful in an academic, scientific, or planning setting. For each one, circle nearby words that help you infer its meaning or use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does conditions mean? Use details from the paragraph to explain.	**Conditions means the circumstances in each location, including features such as pavement, trees, traffic, and places to rest.**
2	What is the purpose of the heat-mitigation plan in paragraph 3? What details help you infer this purpose?	**Its purpose is to reduce the effects of heat. Shade trees, a covered waiting area, pale pavement, and cooler ground temperatures support this inference.**
3	Which word is most specialized to a science discussion, albedo, map, or residents? Explain how the passage shows its meaning.	**Albedo is the specialized science term. The passage explains that it is a surface's ability to reflect sunlight and connects it to absorbed solar energy.**
4	Why do the planners use the phrase accessibility requirements instead of only saying that the route should be smooth?	**Requirements shows that the design must meet standards for access. The smooth route for wheelchair users is one example of those standards.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library entrance will be safer when crews add permeable pavement, a surface that lets rain soak into the ground instead of pooling. Evidence from the site survey shows that this change can reduce slippery puddles.

Accept equivalent explanations of conditions as the environmental circumstances at each location and heat mitigation as reducing heat's harmful effects. For the open task, accept varied topics if the response has exactly two sentences, includes all three vocabulary types, and gives a clear context clue for the specialized term.