Cooler Campus Words

Use precise vocabulary to explain evidence and make recommendations.

6.L.V.1.b "Use grade-level general, academic, and disciplinary vocabulary to communicate clearly and precisely in a variety of settings. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two academic words, circle three specialized science words, and number the sentence that explains why precise wording helps an audience.

A Cooler Campus Plan

1. On a hot afternoon, Maya's science club surveyed the blocks around their school. They recorded the location, trunk width, and condition of each street tree. The group found that the parking-lot side had little shade because only three young trees grew there. In contrast, the playground had a wider tree canopy, the layer of leaves and branches that spreads above the ground. Their data gave them evidence to discuss where new trees could make the campus cooler.

2. Next, the club analyzed its measurements and created a map. They used symbols to show mature trees, saplings, and empty planting spaces. A mature tree has a larger trunk and a more developed canopy than a sapling. The map helped the students compare areas instead of relying on guesses. They estimated that planting six trees along the parking lot could increase shade near the building. This estimate was a prediction based on their measurements, not a promise about the exact future result.

3. At the next school board meeting, Maya presented the club's findings. She said, "Our survey indicates that the parking-lot edge has limited canopy cover. We recommend planting native trees there because their roots can help absorb rainwater." Native trees are species that grow naturally in a region. Maya chose precise words for her audience. Saying "trees can help" was less clear than explaining how roots absorb water. The board asked the principal to examine the proposal and calculate the cost.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which specialized science term names the layer of leaves and branches above the ground?

2. Which academic verb in paragraph 2 means that the club studied its measurements carefully?

3. What did the club's map help students do instead of relying on guesses?

4. What precise detail makes Maya's statement about trees clearer than saying that “trees can help”?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence recommendation to your principal about adding plants to one area of the school grounds. Use one academic word, such as recommend, indicate, analyze, or estimate, and at least two precise science words.

ANSWER KEY

Cooler Campus Words

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two academic words, circle three specialized science words, and number the sentence that explains why precise wording helps an audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which specialized science term names the layer of leaves and branches above the ground?	**canopy**
2	Which academic verb in paragraph 2 means that the club studied its measurements carefully?	**analyzed**
3	What did the club's map help students do instead of relying on guesses?	**compare areas**
4	What precise detail makes Maya's statement about trees clearer than saying that “trees can help”?	**Their roots can help absorb rainwater.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Based on our measurements, I recommend planting native shrubs beside the bike rack. Their roots can absorb rainwater, and their leaves can add shade near the walkway.

Accept academic and science vocabulary that is used accurately and makes the recommendation more specific. The response must have exactly two sentences, identify a school area, and include a clear recommendation.