

Reading Changes Lives

Evaluate how literacy can shape living conditions.

SS6E3.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how literacy can improve living conditions, and circle the sentence that warns that literacy is not the only influence on standard of living.

Literacy and Daily Life

- ① In many communities in Latin America and Canada, literacy means being able to read, write, and use printed or digital information. When more people have these skills, they can read job notices, follow safety directions, compare prices, and complete forms. These actions can help families earn income and use services. Literacy rates show the percentage of people who can read and write. A higher rate can be linked to a higher standard of living, including health, housing, education, and access to needed goods.
- ② Consider a farming town in Peru where adults attend evening reading classes. A participant who learns to read may understand medicine labels, school messages, and information about crop prices. Reading a bus schedule can also make it easier to reach a clinic or a market. Children may benefit when adults can communicate with teachers and support homework. These changes can improve daily life, but literacy alone does not guarantee higher incomes. Jobs, roads, health care, and fair access to opportunities also affect a community's standard of living.
- ③ In Canada, strong literacy skills can help people apply for training, understand workplace rules, and use online government services. In parts of Latin America, governments and local groups work to expand schooling and adult literacy, especially where distance, poverty, or language barriers can limit access. Comparing places requires care. A literacy rate is useful evidence, yet it does not tell everything about living conditions. To evaluate its effect, ask how reading and writing skills could change people's choices, health, work, and ability to use community services.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two ways literacy could improve daily life in the farming town in Peru.

2 How can reading job notices and completing forms help raise a family's standard of living?

3 Why should you not use a literacy rate alone to judge a community's standard of living? Name two other factors from the passage.

4 According to the passage, how can strong literacy skills help people in Canada use community services or opportunities?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a town starts free evening reading classes for adults. Write 3 or 4 sentences explaining two ways the classes could improve the town's standard of living. Include one other condition the town would need, and explain why literacy alone is not enough.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how literacy can improve living conditions, and circle the sentence that warns that literacy is not the only influence on standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two ways literacy could improve daily life in the farming town in Peru.	It could help adults understand medicine labels, school messages, or crop prices, and it could help them read a bus schedule to reach a clinic or market.
2	How can reading job notices and completing forms help raise a family's standard of living?	These skills can help people find work, earn income, and use needed services.
3	Why should you not use a literacy rate alone to judge a community's standard of living? Name two other factors from the passage.	Literacy does not guarantee higher incomes or good living conditions. Other factors include jobs, roads, health care, and fair access to opportunities.
4	According to the passage, how can strong literacy skills help people in Canada use community services or opportunities?	They can help people apply for training, understand workplace rules, and use online government services.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

More adults could read job notices and apply for training, which could help them find better work. They could also read medicine labels and information from schools or clinics. The town would also need jobs because reading skills alone do not guarantee income. Literacy can improve people's choices, but roads, health care, and fair opportunities also affect living conditions.

Accept reasonable cause-and-effect explanations that connect literacy to work, health, education, prices, transportation, or services. For the open response, students should include two likely benefits, one additional condition, and the idea that literacy is important but not the only factor.