

Literacy Living Links

Use evidence to evaluate how reading and writing skills connect to daily life.

SS6E6.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sentences that explain a specific way literacy can affect standard of living, then circle all four percentages in the table's Literacy rate column to compare with the other two measures.

Skills, Choices, and Living Conditions

- ① Literacy means being able to read and write well enough to use information in daily life. It can affect standard of living, which includes income, health, housing, safety, and access to services. A person who reads a medicine label, job notice, or bus schedule may make safer choices, find work, or reach a clinic.

ILLUSTRATIVE CLASSROOM COMPARISON, NOT NATIONAL AVERAGES

Community sample	Literacy rate	Average yearly income (US\$)	Homes with safe water
Canada sample	99%	\$42,000	100%
Chile sample	97%	\$18,000	99%
Guatemala sample	82%	\$5,500	91%
Haiti sample	62%	\$1,700	55%

- ② In the classroom data, places with higher literacy also have higher average income and more homes with safe water. This pattern gives evidence of a relationship. It does not prove that literacy caused every difference. Governments, jobs, natural resources, health care, and public investment can also affect how people live.
- ③ Across Latin America and Canada, literacy rates are generally high in many areas, but people do not all have the same standard of living. Learning to read can help people use information and qualify for some jobs. Still, a fair evaluation uses more than one measure, such as income, health care, housing, and clean water.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What relationship among literacy, average income, and safe water is shown in the table? Use evidence from two community samples.

2 Give two ways literacy can improve a person's standard of living, based on the passage.

3 Why does the table's pattern not prove that literacy caused all of the differences in living conditions? Name two other factors from the passage.

4 Evaluate this claim: "Improving literacy alone will make every place equally prosperous." Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a Latin American or Canadian community name. Write three sentences that evaluate how improving literacy could affect its standard of living. Name one likely benefit, one measure you would check, and one other factor that could influence the outcome.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two sentences that explain a specific way literacy can affect standard of living, then circle all four percentages in the table's Literacy rate column to compare with the other two measures. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What relationship among literacy, average income, and safe water is shown in the table? Use evidence from two community samples.	Higher literacy is paired with higher income and more homes with safe water. For example, the Canada sample has 99% literacy, \$42,000 income, and 100% safe water, while the Haiti sample has 62% literacy, \$1,700 income, and 55% safe water.
2	Give two ways literacy can improve a person's standard of living, based on the passage.	Literacy can help a person read medicine labels and make safer choices. It can also help a person read job notices, find work, or use a bus schedule to reach a clinic.
3	Why does the table's pattern not prove that literacy caused all of the differences in living conditions? Name two other factors from the passage.	The pattern shows a relationship, not proof of cause. Other factors include government action, jobs, natural resources, health care, and public investment.
4	Evaluate this claim: "Improving literacy alone will make every place equally prosperous." Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.	The claim is not supported. Literacy can help people, but standard of living also depends on factors such as jobs, health care, housing, clean water, and public investment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Vale, stronger literacy programs could help more adults read job applications and medicine labels. I would check whether average income and clinic visits change after the program. New jobs and affordable health care could also affect the results, so literacy would not be the only cause.

Accept clear evidence-based explanations that recognize literacy as one important influence, not the only cause of standard of living. For the open response, accept reasonable predicted benefits, measures, and additional factors.