

Words and Well-Being

Evaluate how literacy connects to living conditions in Africa.

SS7E3.a "Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four details that show how literacy can improve living conditions. Circle the sentence that explains why literacy rates alone cannot measure standard of living.

Literacy and Daily Life

- ① Literacy means being able to read and write well enough to use written information in daily life. In many African countries, literacy can shape a family's choices. A parent who reads a medicine label can follow dosage directions. A farmer who reads a weather message or seed instructions can make better plans. A worker who completes an application may have access to more jobs. These advantages can raise income, protect health, and make daily tasks easier. Those parts of life are measures of standard of living.
- ② However, a higher literacy rate does not automatically give every person a high standard of living. A community also needs clinics, safe water, schools, transportation, and jobs that pay enough. For example, a literate job seeker may still struggle if few employers are hiring. In the same way, a person can use health information only if medicine or a clinic is available. Literacy is an important tool, but its effects are strongest when people can use that tool with other resources.
- ③ Improving literacy can have effects beyond one household. When more people can read public notices, compare prices, or understand a loan agreement, they may avoid costly mistakes and take part in local decisions. Literacy programs for children and adults can therefore support long-term improvements in living conditions. Still, leaders should not judge progress by literacy rates alone. They should also ask whether families have food, health care, safe housing, and chances to earn a living. Looking at both literacy and these conditions gives a fairer evaluation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe two ways literacy can improve a person's standard of living.

2 Why might a literate job seeker still have a low standard of living?

3 Evaluate this claim: "A higher literacy rate proves that everyone in a community has a high standard of living." Use evidence from the passage.

4 Why does the passage say that looking at literacy and other living conditions gives a fairer evaluation?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A town starts an adult literacy program. Write exactly three sentences: state whether the town's standard of living will likely improve, explain one possible benefit, and name one other condition leaders should examine.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline four details that show how literacy can improve living conditions. Circle the sentence that explains why literacy rates alone cannot measure standard of living. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe two ways literacy can improve a person's standard of living.	Answers may include reading medicine labels to protect health, reading weather or seed instructions to plan farming, or completing job applications to access jobs.
2	Why might a literate job seeker still have a low standard of living?	The person may struggle if few employers are hiring. Literacy does not create jobs by itself.
3	Evaluate this claim: "A higher literacy rate proves that everyone in a community has a high standard of living." Use evidence from the passage.	The claim is not supported. A community also needs resources such as clinics, safe water, transportation, and jobs that pay enough.
4	Why does the passage say that looking at literacy and other living conditions gives a fairer evaluation?	Literacy is important, but food, health care, safe housing, and chances to earn a living also affect standard of living.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town's standard of living will likely improve because more residents can read job applications and health directions. This could help people find work and make safer health choices. Leaders should also check whether jobs and clinics are available, because literacy works best with these resources.

Accept reasonable cause-and-effect explanations grounded in the passage. For Part 3, accept either a qualified positive claim or a claim that improvement depends on other resources, if the student explains the reasoning.