Count the Evidence

Read a research-based proposal about census outreach.

USG.P.4.2 "Engage in authentic research to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations and products. Develop self-generated theses or claims related to independent research and investigations using credible and relevant..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Write 1 beside the writer's claim and 2 beside each piece of attributed evidence. Circle the direct quotation and underline a sentence that explains what the evidence cannot prove.

A Proposal for Census Outreach

1. To the city council: Before the 2030 census, fund clear, multilingual notices that explain how residents can take part. My claim is that practical outreach helps protect fair representation, because the census count helps decide how many seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Constitution calls for an "actual Enumeration" every ten years (Article I, Section 2). That short quotation establishes the legal duty to count people, but it does not prove that notices will work. I chose this question after hearing neighbors wonder why a government form could matter to their community.

2. Evidence from the U.S. Census Bureau shows why a complete count matters. In its 2020 apportionment results, the bureau reported that Texas gained two House seats and California lost one after seats were assigned using census population totals. Those results do not show that either state gained or lost seats because of missed forms; population changes relative to other states also matter. Still, they show a link between census totals and representation. I name the bureau and summarize its findings in my own words so readers can trace the evidence instead of mistaking the summary for my discovery.

3. Council members may ask whether notices are worth the cost. The Constitution and the bureau's results support the importance of counting people, not the effectiveness of my proposed notices. Before approving a budget, the council should compare evidence from the Census Bureau or peer-reviewed studies on which outreach methods reach households that are often missed. A small local trial could track attendance at information sessions and questions submitted, without collecting residents' private census answers. I would report the trial's costs and results to the council, then revise the proposal if the evidence does not support it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the writer's claim and identify the audience the writer is trying to persuade.

2. Which words does the writer quote from a primary source? What part of the argument does the quotation support?

3. Identify one Census Bureau finding the writer summarizes. Why does naming the bureau matter?

4. What gap in the evidence does the writer admit, and how does the writer propose to investigate it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence proposal for a different city-council action related to the 2030 census. State your claim, accurately attribute a finding or quotation from the passage, explain its relevance, and identify evidence you would still need before asking for funding.

ANSWER KEY

Count the Evidence

HIGH SCHOOL · USG.P.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Write 1 beside the writer's claim and 2 beside each piece of attributed evidence. Circle the direct quotation and underline a sentence that explains what the evidence cannot prove. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the writer's claim and identify the audience the writer is trying to persuade.	**The writer asks the city council to fund multilingual census notices, arguing that outreach helps protect fair representation.**
2	Which words does the writer quote from a primary source? What part of the argument does the quotation support?	**"Actual Enumeration" comes from the Constitution. It supports the point that the government has a duty to count people every ten years, not that notices will work.**
3	Identify one Census Bureau finding the writer summarizes. Why does naming the bureau matter?	**The bureau reported that Texas gained two House seats or that California lost one in the 2020 apportionment. Naming the source lets readers trace the finding and distinguishes it from the writer's own idea.**
4	What gap in the evidence does the writer admit, and how does the writer propose to investigate it?	**The cited evidence does not show whether the proposed notices work. The writer proposes checking research on outreach methods and running a small local trial before seeking a full budget.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city council should fund temporary census help desks in public libraries before the 2030 census. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Texas gained two House seats after the 2020 census, showing that population totals affect representation. A library desk could help residents find official census information, although the 2020 result does not show that desks improve participation. Before requesting funding, I would seek credible studies comparing census response rates in places with and without library help desks.

Accept other accurately attributed findings from the passage. For Part 3, look for an action distinct from multilingual notices and a clear distinction between what the cited evidence shows and what still needs investigation.