

# Light With Purpose

Evaluate how an informational author builds support for a practical change.

**ELA.12.R.2.3** "Evaluate an author's choices in establishing and achieving purpose(s)."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline a specific author choice in each paragraph: an image, example, concession or call to action. Circle one phrase suggesting the author's attitude. Be ready to judge how these choices may affect readers.

### A Night Worth Keeping

- ① On a clear night, the Milky Way can look like a pale river across the sky. Yet many people now live beneath a glow that hides all but the brightest stars. This is not only a loss for stargazers. Excess outdoor light can shine into bedroom windows, spilling light where residents may not want it, and it can waste electricity when lamps illuminate empty sidewalks or the sky. As cities replace old fixtures, they have an opportunity to aim light where it is needed, rather than scattering it everywhere.
- ② The issue also reaches beyond human neighborhoods. Many migratory birds use celestial cues, and bright nighttime lighting can draw them off course or toward dangerous buildings. Birds drawn to illuminated structures may circle them, using energy needed for migration and risking collisions. These effects do not mean that towns should switch off every streetlight. Well-designed lighting can improve visibility near crosswalks and entrances. The better question is whether each fixture sends a useful beam downward, uses only as much brightness as needed, and turns off when no one is there.
- ③ Zion National Park's visitor center uses shielded fixtures, warm-colored LEDs and controls that dim or turn off lights when appropriate. These choices illustrate lighting principles: direct light downward, limit brightness and use it only where and when needed. Dark-sky planning can mean matching light with its job. Residents can ask local officials to review lighting near parks, rivers and homes. When a lamp is aimed carefully, a safer path and a visible night sky do not have to compete with each other.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

- 1** What is the author's main purpose? Identify one choice in paragraph 1 that begins to achieve that purpose.

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- 2** How does the discussion of migrating birds broaden the appeal beyond stargazers? Identify a likely audience effect and one limit of this evidence.

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- 3** Why does the author state that towns should not "switch off every streetlight"? Evaluate how this choice affects the argument.

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- 4** Evaluate the closing contrast between a safer path and a visible sky. What response does it invite, and what would a skeptical reader still need?

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### 3 YOUR TURN

## Your own words

Evaluate this author's effectiveness for residents considering a lighting review in 140-180 words. Use three paragraphs: purpose and overall judgment; two choices with textual evidence and likely audience effects; limitation and qualified conclusion.

## Make and support a judgment

Quote or paraphrase accurately. Judge what the writing achieves and leaves unproved. Support your conclusion. Leave blank lines between paragraphs.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline a specific author choice in each paragraph: an image, example, concession or call to action. Circle one phrase suggesting the author's attitude. Be ready to judge how these choices may affect readers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                           | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the author's main purpose? Identify one choice in paragraph 1 that begins to achieve that purpose.                                         | <b>The author aims to persuade residents to support better-directed outdoor lighting. The contrast between the Milky Way and city glow makes a lost view concrete; unwanted light and wasted electricity connect the issue to everyday concerns.</b>  |
| 2 | How does the discussion of migrating birds broaden the appeal beyond stargazers? Identify a likely audience effect and one limit of this evidence. | <b>It appeals to residents concerned about wildlife by explaining circling and collision risks. It gives a reason to investigate lighting, but provides no local bird counts or comparison showing how much a proposed change would help.</b>         |
| 3 | Why does the author state that towns should not "switch off every streetlight"? Evaluate how this choice affects the argument.                     | <b>The concession recognizes residents' need for visibility and presents the proposal as targeted lighting rather than removing all lights. This may reduce resistance, although it does not establish the safety of a particular local redesign.</b> |
| 4 | Evaluate the closing contrast between a safer path and a visible sky. What response does it invite, and what would a skeptical reader still need?  | <b>It invites readers to view safety and dark skies as compatible and consider a lighting review. A skeptical reader may still need local visibility measurements, costs or results before supporting a specific installation.</b>                    |

### **PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

**Evaluation:** The author is fairly effective at encouraging residents to request a lighting review, though the article cannot establish that any particular redesign will succeed. Its purpose is to gain support for more targeted lighting while preserving useful visibility, rather than to eliminate outdoor lighting.

The opening image of the Milky Way as a pale river makes the loss of darkness vivid for readers who value the night sky. More strategically, the concession that towns should not switch off every streetlight acknowledges the concerns of residents who rely on lit routes. This qualification can make the author seem responsive instead of dismissive, helping skeptical readers consider a review.

However, the closing promise of a safer path beside a visible sky remains broader than the evidence demonstrates locally. The Zion example shows a possible approach, but the article gives no neighborhood measurements or costs. Overall, the choices justify investigation more convincingly than approval of a specific installation.

### **TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES**

Evaluate the student's judgment about this supplied text, not agreement with lighting policy. Require purpose, overall judgment, two distinct author choices, accurate textual evidence, likely effects on residents, and an evidence-based limitation leading to a qualified conclusion in three paragraphs and 140-180 words. Naming a technique or summarizing a claim alone is insufficient. Accept different supported judgments; audience effects are reasoned possibilities, not measured responses. The Zion example illustrates a real project but does not prove local costs, visibility or ecological outcomes. Passage background verified with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/story/threats-birds-collisions-nighttime-lighting>; National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/night skies/outdoor-lighting-principles.htm> and [https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/nature/night\\_friendly\\_lighting.htm](https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/nature/night_friendly_lighting.htm). The instructional article is original synthesis, not a quotation from those agencies.