

Research to Recommendation

Create a traceable recommendation from two supplied research sources.

9.R.1.E "Create research products aligned with the demands of the reading and writing standards."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Mark a fact from each agency. Circle a limitation or condition. Distinguish the imagined school situation from the source findings.

Research Brief: Rain on School Pavement

- ① Imagine that a school wants to manage runoff from a paved courtyard. Runoff is water that flows over a surface. The facilities committee asks for a short recommendation comparing a rain garden with permeable pavement before it pays for a site assessment. It has not yet checked the soil, costs or maintenance capacity. Use the two real agency source summaries below to recommend a next step; do not invent local results. Source A is EPA, "Types of Green Infrastructure." Source B is USGS, "Evaluating the potential benefits of permeable pavement on the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff."
- ② Source A: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Types of Green Infrastructure." A rain garden is a shallow planted depression that collects runoff and filters it through materials such as soil, sand or gravel. Permeable pavement lets water enter through its surface and reach storage layers below. The stored water can then soak into the ground or leave through an underdrain. Both approaches manage rain near where it falls, but one uses a planted area while the other uses a pavement system.
- ③ Source B: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), "Evaluating the potential benefits of permeable pavement on the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff." Porous pavers, concrete or asphalt can cover a stone reservoir that stores rainwater and runoff. Parking lots, sidewalks and driveways are common uses. Sediment can clog the pavement and reduce the amount of water entering it, so upkeep matters. A pavement design therefore needs a maintenance plan, not just an installation plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What can Source A contribute to a recommendation about this courtyard?

2 What useful condition does Source B add? Explain its importance.

3 Why would an immediate promise that either option will stop all courtyard flooding exceed the evidence?

4 How should the recommendation distinguish research from a proposed next step?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write the facilities committee a finished research-based recommendation, not just a plan to write one. Compare both options, recommend a next step, and explain it using a relevant detail from EACH agency. Address a reasonable concern or alternative and name information still needed. Identify sources where you use them and complete the source list below. Use only the supplied summaries.

Select and connect evidence

State your recommendation, a fact from each source and how each fact supports your reasoning. Note a concern or alternative to address.

Write the recommendation

Address the facilities committee. Develop your claim with both sources, explain the comparison, respond to a concern and end with a bounded next step. Use one or more paragraphs.

Document and check

List both agency names and source titles so readers can trace your evidence. Reread your recommendation and correct any invented local result or unsupported guarantee directly in your draft.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Mark a fact from each agency. Circle a limitation or condition. Distinguish the imagined school situation from the source findings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can Source A contribute to a recommendation about this courtyard?	EPA explains the two structures: a planted depression that collects and filters runoff, and pavement that admits water to underlying storage. These definitions support comparing the options.
2	What useful condition does Source B add? Explain its importance.	Sediment can clog permeable pavement and reduce water entry. A recommendation needs to consider maintenance, not assume that installation alone guarantees performance.
3	Why would an immediate promise that either option will stop all courtyard flooding exceed the evidence?	The summaries explain general approaches, not this site's performance. The school has not checked soil, costs or maintenance, and neither source guarantees complete flood prevention.
4	How should the recommendation distinguish research from a proposed next step?	Attribute general facts to the agencies, then explain the recommended local action as a reasoned proposal. State the site information still needed instead of presenting it as a known result.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Evidence plan. Compare planted and paved approaches using EPA; use USGS's clogging warning to justify checking upkeep before selecting a design. **Recommendation.** Facilities committee: investigate both a rain garden and permeable pavement before choosing a courtyard project. EPA explains that rain gardens collect runoff in planted depressions, while permeable pavement lets water enter storage below. The approaches could therefore serve different space needs. A paved surface may seem convenient, but USGS warns that sediment can clog it and reduce water entry. Please include a maintenance assessment rather than treating new pavement as a guaranteed solution. A rain garden is an alternative, but these summaries do not establish which design suits our soil or budget. Commission a site and cost assessment, including upkeep for both options, before selecting a project. **Source list.** EPA, "Types of Green Infrastructure." USGS, "Evaluating the potential benefits of permeable pavement on the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff."

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess a complete written research product with a claim, evidence from both sources, comparison, concern or alternative, traceable attribution and a limited next step. No outside research or word quota is required. The school situation is imagined; the agency summaries are paraphrases of real official pages. Accept different recommendations if supported and conditional on unknown site facts. Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/types-green-infrastructure> and <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/upper-midwest-water-science-center/science/evaluating-potential-benefits-permeable-pavement> .