

Trees, Talk, Evidence

Read a model report that uses evidence and respectful discussion.

4.21 "Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to: use social studies terminology correctly; incorporate main and supporting ideas in verbal and written communication..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the five bold social studies terms. Underline the sentence that states the council's main idea, then number 1 and 2 beside the two sentences in paragraph 2 that give a benefit and a concern.

A Report for the Playground

- ① At Lincoln Elementary, the fourth-grade council prepared a **report** about adding shade trees to the playground. Their main idea was that trees could make recess cooler. Before writing, students used **research** from the city parks office. They learned that young trees need water and care, so the report also explained that adults and students would need a plan to help them grow.
- ② To organize their findings, the council made a **graphic organizer** with one box for benefits and another for concerns. A parks worker said shade can lower the temperature on sunny days. A custodian explained that fallen leaves would need to be cleaned up. These supporting ideas helped readers understand both the possible benefit and the work required.
- ③ At a school meeting, some families supported the trees, while others worried that money might be needed for books or repairs. The council practiced **civil discourse** by listening without interrupting and answering with evidence from its research. Its **bibliography** listed the parks office website and the custodian interview. The report did not choose for everyone, but it clearly shared information for the community to consider.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was the council's main idea for the playground?

2 What information did the council use to support its report? Give one detail from the passage.

3 What were the two different perspectives about spending money that families shared at the meeting?

4 How did the council show civil discourse?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a school or community issue. Write a four-sentence mini-report that states your main idea, gives two supporting details from research or experience, and uses the term **civil discourse** correctly while recognizing another perspective.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the five bold social studies terms. Underline the sentence that states the council's main idea, then number 1 and 2 beside the two sentences in paragraph 2 that give a benefit and a concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the council's main idea for the playground?	The council's main idea was that adding shade trees could make recess cooler.
2	What information did the council use to support its report? Give one detail from the passage.	Answers may include research from the city parks office, a parks worker's statement that shade can lower temperature, or a custodian's explanation that leaves need cleaning.
3	What were the two different perspectives about spending money that families shared at the meeting?	Some families supported spending money on trees. Others worried that money might be needed for books or repairs.
4	How did the council show civil discourse?	The council listened without interrupting and answered with evidence from its research.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water bottle filling station near the gym. During basketball practice, students often wait at the only fountain. A coach said teams could refill bottles more quickly with another station. In civil discourse, we should also listen to people who worry about the cost.

Accept equivalent statements supported by the passage for Parts 1 and 2. For the mini-report, check for a clear main idea, two relevant supporting details, correct use of civil discourse, and recognition of another perspective.