

Research With Respect

Read a model research note, then identify evidence, citations, and civil language.

6.21 "Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to: use social studies terminology correctly..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the report's main idea and its supporting details. Circle each source citation, and number the two different perspectives described in the passage.

A Research Note on Hoover Dam

- ① My report argues that Hoover Dam changed the Southwest by controlling part of the Colorado River and supplying electricity. Construction began in 1931, during the Great Depression, and the dam was dedicated in 1935. The project created jobs, but its effects reached beyond the work site. Lake Mead formed behind the dam, storing water for cities and farms. These supporting details explain why the dam became an important public works project (National Park Service, "Hoover Dam").
- ② People did not experience the project in the same way. Many workers and nearby businesses valued wages and new customers during the Depression. Other people worried about flooded land, changed river habitats, and control of water. The 1922 Colorado River Compact divided water among seven states, yet Native nations were not represented in the compact negotiations. A civil discussion can state both perspectives without insulting either group. This context helps readers see that a public works project can bring benefits and costs (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, "Colorado River Compact").
- ③ To avoid plagiarism, the writer puts borrowed facts in new words and cites the source near the claim. A bibliography lets readers locate the research: National Park Service. "Hoover Dam." 2024. www.nps.gov. In discussion, a speaker might say, "The jobs mattered, and the environmental concerns also deserve evidence." This sentence uses respectful language and connects a claim to research. An outline could clearly list the main idea first, then sections for benefits, costs, and sources.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the report's main idea? Give two supporting details that support it.

2 Describe the two perspectives about Hoover Dam in paragraph 2.

3 Which source citation supports the information about the Colorado River Compact?

4 What two actions does the passage say a writer should take to avoid plagiarism?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a public works project you can research, such as a bridge, park, canal, dam, or transit line. Write a six-sentence research note that states a main idea, gives two evidence details, explains two perspectives, uses respectful language, and ends with a source citation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the report's main idea and its supporting details. Circle each source citation, and number the two different perspectives described in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the report's main idea? Give two supporting details that support it.	Main idea: Hoover Dam changed the Southwest. Supporting details include that it controlled part of the Colorado River, supplied electricity, created jobs, and formed Lake Mead to store water.
2	Describe the two perspectives about Hoover Dam in paragraph 2.	Workers and nearby businesses valued wages and new customers. Other people worried about flooded land, changed river habitats, and control of water.
3	Which source citation supports the information about the Colorado River Compact?	(U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, "Colorado River Compact")
4	What two actions does the passage say a writer should take to avoid plagiarism?	Put borrowed facts in new words and cite the source near the claim.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Erie Canal was a public works project that changed trade and travel in New York. Completed in 1825, it connected the Hudson River to Lake Erie. This evidence shows why shipping goods became faster and less expensive. Supporters had a perspective that the canal would increase commerce and help towns grow. However, some Haudenosaunee communities had reason to question settlement and pressure on their lands, so both perspectives deserve respectful discussion. Source: Bernstein, Peter L. *Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation*. W. W. Norton, 2005.

Accept equivalent main ideas and supporting details that come directly from the passage. For the open response, check for six sentences, a clear main idea, two factual details, two perspectives, respectful wording, and a usable source citation.