

8th Grade L&L Essential Skills

2019-2020

Term 1

Students can write an effective claim with title and author with 85% accuracy

Term 2:

Students can cite evidence to support a claim using correct punctuation and parenthetical citations with 85% accuracy.

Term 3:

Students can write an effective analysis that supports the evidence cited with 85% accuracy.

Term 4:

Students can write a conclusion to a claim, restating the claim and leaving the reader something to think about with 85% accuracy.

A Team Effort to Fight Fires...As wildfires worsen across the western U.S., local fire departments need all the help they can get

For the first time since 2006, the National Interagency Fire Center, in Boise, Idaho, has called on U.S. soldiers to fight fires. About 200 military troops are working to contain wildfires in the Pacific Northwest. Members of the U.S. National Guard are also helping.

“The fire season ... [has] stressed our resources,” fire center spokesman Ken Frederick told the Associated Press. “And that’s got us relying on help from resources we don’t normally use.”

Thousands of people are working across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and the surrounding region to battle massive and destructive wildfires. In just the last two weeks, wildfires in the lower 48 states (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) have scorched more than 1,500 square miles, according to Frederick. Many conditions have combined to make the wildfire season worse, including intense drought, heat, and thunderstorms with plenty of lightning.

“A Team Effort to Fight Fires” by Meera Dolasia

1. Read the article. Write a claim to answer the question.

Question: According to the article, “A Team Effort to Fight Fires” by Meera Dolasia, what are the conditions that have made fire season worse?

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Claim:

"Not So Hidden Mickey" Shaped Solar Farm To Power Orlando's Walt Disney World Resort

By Meera Dolasia

On Tuesday, April 12, **representatives** from Orlando's Walt Disney World Resort, Duke Energy, and Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID) flipped a giant light switch to mark the highly **anticipated** opening of a five-**megawatt** solar facility. Cleverly designed to resemble the familiar "not-so-hidden-Mickey," the massive solar farm that is located near Epcot is clearly visible from Space.

The farm's 48,000 solar panels will not just help meet Walt Disney World Resort's energy requirements but also those of the surrounding hotels that house the park's visitors. Though producing green energy on such a large scale is a **newendeavor**, Epcot is no stranger to solar power. The **futuristic** theme park's Universe of Energy building has been fuelled by the solar panels fitted on its roof since October 1982!

The Orlando Solar plant is part of the company's ongoing efforts to reduce net **emissions**. In 2015, Disney reported that they had reduced their **carbon footprint** by 34% from 2012 levels and is planning to reduce it to 50% by 2020. In addition to switching to solar energy, the company has also been reducing the **environmental** impact of its operations with **innovations** like running the Disneyland Resort trains on **biodiesel** made with recycled cooking oil obtained from the park's restaurants and hotels. The company which already **incinerates** almost 50% of the trash generated at its various theme parks is gearing toward increasing that number to 60% so that even less of it ends up in our landfills!

Read the article. Write a claim to answer the question.

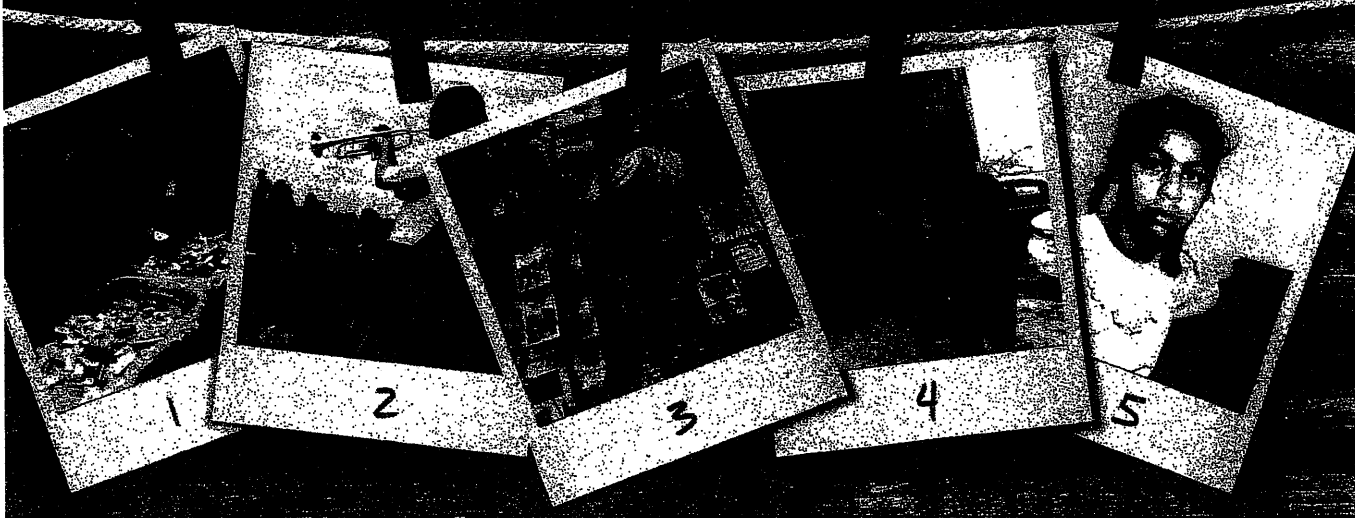
Question: According to the article "Not so Hidden Mickey" by Meera Dolasia, what is one way that Disney is reducing its environmental impact?

Claim:

Start T2
E.S.

How to Be a Changemaker

You don't have to be rich or famous to make the world a better place.
Just ask these five kids. *By Mackenzie Carter*



1 Start small. Choose a project that you can chip away at. **Dominic Smith, 14,** from New Mexico, makes soap in his spare time and donates it to homeless shelters. Over the past two years, he's donated more than 17,000 bars of soap.

2 Use your strengths and talents for good. Trumpet player **Katie Prior, 16,** from Oklahoma, learned that the song "Taps" was often played at many veterans' funerals using a recording rather than a live performer. So she contacted her local funeral home. Now she volunteers her time performing the song live at veterans' funerals.

3 Tackle a problem. **Marley Dias, 12,** from New Jersey, noticed that many books on her school reading list had white children as the main characters. To address this lack of diversity, she started the social media campaign #1000blackgirlbooks. Through it, she collects books with diverse main characters and donates them to schools around the world. She's donated more than 9,000 books to date.

4 Join a movement. Find people already tackling an issue that you care about, and ask how you can help. **Jared Freedland, 16,** from Washington State, wanted to help refugees. He reached out to a local program that helps refugees get settled in the U.S. They needed blankets, so Jared led an effort to sew and collect blankets for them.

5 Use your voice. Just because you can't vote yet doesn't mean you don't have a voice. Just look at **Sylvia Mendez** in the play you just read! You can write to your mayor or representative in Congress, write an opinion piece for your local paper, or make a call-to-action video and share it on YouTube.

Writing Contest

Consider this statement: Each of us has the power to make a change in the world. How does this statement relate to the play and the informational text? Answer this question in an essay. Use text evidence. Send your essay to **Sylvia Mendez Contest**. Five winners will each get *Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. See page 2 for details.



Get this activity online.

According to the article, what is one way you can be a changemaker? Write a claim and support it with textual evidence.

Essential Skill Term 2 Entry

Name: _____

According to the article, "How to be a Changemaker

Read the claim and cite evidence to support the claim using proper punctuation and parenthetical citation.

Claim: According to the article , "How to Be A Changemaker" by Kristin Lewis there are many ways to make change but one way is to use your voice.

Evidence:

Essential Skill Term 2 Entry

Name: _____

According to the article, "How to be a Changemaker

Read the claim and cite evidence to support the claim using proper punctuation and parenthetical citation.

Claim: According to the article , "How to Be A Changemaker" by Kristin Lewis there are many ways to make change but one way is to use your voice.

Evidence:

Essential Skill Term 2 End

Name: _____

According to the article, "Where Are All the Dentists?" by Kristin Lewis what is one reason why people don't go to the dentist?

Read the claim and cite evidence to support the claim using proper punctuation and parenthetical citation.

Claim: According to the article , "Where Are All the Dentists?" by Kristin Lewis one reason people do not go to the dentist is because it's expensive.

Evidence:

Essential Skill Term 2 End

Name: _____

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Claim: According to the article , "Where Are All the Dentists?" by Kristin Lewis one reason people do not go to the dentist is because it's expensive.

Evidence:

March 25, 2019

International Ice Swimming Championship In Russia Attracts 400 Athletes

By *Diane Christiansen*

Swimming in water temperatures of 41 degrees F and below, with air temperatures between 6.8 degrees F to -4 degrees F, wearing just a swimsuit, cap, and goggles, may sound foolhardy to some. But that is precisely what 400 athletes from 33 countries had to endure in the 3rd biennial International Ice Swimming Championships, held in Murmansk, Russia from March 14, 2019 to March 17, 2019.

Organized by the International Ice Swimming Association (IISA), the event was held in a 25-meter, ten-lane swimming pool created by carving out slabs of the 2-foot thick surface layer of ice on Lake Semyonovskaya with chainsaws. Participants spent the first day getting medical examinations and conducting practice swims to get acclimated to the frigid water. The competitions began in earnest on March 15, 2019, with 52 swimmers vying for the coveted final spots for the eight fastest men and eight fastest women. Swimmers also competed in the 200 m freestyle, 100 m breaststroke, 4x50 m freestyle relay, and the 1000 m freestyle dash, which was open only to experienced ice swimmers.

As you may have guessed, the extreme sport is not for the faint of heart. Ice swimming can cause hypothermia, asthma, and afterdrop - continued cooling of a swimmer's core temperature during the initial stages of rewarming, which could damage the heart. Hence, even the most experienced athletes are carefully monitored and medically examined before and after they enter the water. Individual spotters are assigned to each participant to check for any issues as they swim. Each event also has a strict time limit after which competitors who are still in the water are pulled out due to the danger of hypothermia.

Unlike normal swim competitions, participants do not dive in. Instead, they immerse themselves into the water slowly using ladders, allowing the body to get gradually accustomed to the low temperature. Swimmers must also stay horizontal in the water at all times and are forbidden to perform flip turns. That's because, in cold water, the warmer blood moves to the core of the body, protecting the organs from the extreme temperature. A flip turn could cause warm blood to move and endanger the organs.

Upon completing their race, swimmers are quickly ushered to a recovery center, where experts help them warm up by immersing their legs in cool water (hot water would be too drastic a change) and covering their bodies with heated towels. Once their body temperature stabilizes, the swimmers settle down into a sauna or hot tub.

If you're wondering why swimmers put themselves through this rigorous endurance test, Jonty Warneken, the world's first disabled person to complete an ice mile, has the answer.

"There's three reasons why a lot of us do this. There's the physical challenge of actually swimming in water that is below five degrees and swimming distance. The second reason is that we open water swim because we love being out in nature. And the third thing is that the camaraderie amongst the swimmers is fantastic, it's a great group to be part of."

Essential Skill: Term 3 Entry

Name: _____

Read the following below and write an analysis that supports the claim and the evidence shown below.

Question: According to the article, "International Ice Swimming Championship in Russia Attracts 400 Athletes" by Diane Christiansen, what are some of the side effects of this competition?

Claim: According to the article, "International Ice Swimming Championship in Russia Attracts 400 Athletes" by Diane Christiansen, some of the side effects of the competition are related to the health of the swimmer.

Evidence: The article states that "Ice swimming can cause hypothermia, asthma, and afterdrop-continued cooling of a swimmer's core temperature" (par 2).

Analysis:

Essential Skill: Term 3 Entry

Name: _____

Read the following below and write an analysis that supports the claim and the evidence shown below.

Question: According to the article, "International Ice Swimming Championship in Russia Attracts 400 Athletes" by Diane Christiansen, what are some of the side effects of this competition?

Claim: According to the article, "International Ice Swimming Championship in Russia Attracts 400 Athletes" by Diane Christiansen, some of the side effects of the competition are related to the health of the swimmer.

Evidence: The article states that "Ice swimming can cause hypothermia, asthma, and afterdrop-continued cooling of a swimmer's core temperature" (par 2).

Analysis:

Hey waiter, this fish tastes like plastic!

By Steve Rubenstein

Thursday, September 24, 2015

A significant amount of synthetic clothing fibers have been found inside fish caught off the Northern California coast and ending up on local dinner plates, according to a new study by environmental scientists at UC Davis. About a quarter of the 64 fish purchased at fish markets in Half Moon Bay and Princeton and analyzed for the study turned out to have bits of synthetic clothing in their guts, said lead researcher Chelsea Rochman, of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The study, published Thursday in the journal of Scientific Reports, came on the heels of research by the San Francisco Estuary Institute that found the surface of San Francisco Bay to be heavily contaminated with plastic microbeads from cosmetics and plastic fibers from clothing. In the UC Davis study, scientists randomly bought locally-caught fish at markets and dissected their guts at a laboratory in Davis. Plastic clothing fibers were found in the guts of about one-fourth of the smelt, anchovy, rockfish, bass, salmon, sanddab, cod and oysters.

Inadequate filtering by home laundry users and sewage treatment plants is suspected of being the source of the contamination, Rochman said. "This shows we have a waste management problem that is coming back to haunt us," Rochman said. Plastic fibers, Rochman said, were only one of many contaminants that get inside fish and were probably less hazardous than mercury, PCBs and other known fish contaminants. "This study doesn't make me afraid of eating fish," said Rochman, a fish fan who dined on oysters twice last week. "The health benefits outweigh the hazards of my being contaminated with microplastics." The scientists also analyzed fish purchased at a market in Indonesia and found that they were contaminated with plastic debris fragments but not with synthetic fibers.

A study released Wednesday by the San Francisco Estuary Institute found that the San Francisco Bay is hundreds of times more contaminated than the Great Lakes with small plastic particles from cosmetics and synthetic clothing. The report also found the small microbeads and other pollutants are gobbled up by fish, whose guts contain far more of the toxic stuff than their fellow Great Lakes fish.

In January, researchers took water samples from different spots in San Francisco Bay and analyzed the results. They found that the waters of the South Bay contained 2.6 million microplastic particles of 5 millimeters or smaller per square mile, compared with 285,000 in Lake Erie, 13,000 in Lake Superior and 7,800 in Lake Huron.

The two studies were released shortly after the California legislature passed a bill to regulate microplastics in cosmetics. That bill is awaiting action by the governor.

Question: According to the article, "Hey waiter, this fish tastes like plastic!" by Steve Rubenstein, what are people finding when they cut open the fish they are catching? What do researchers and scientists think the cause of this problem is? How can the problem be solved?

Claim: According to the article, "Hey waiter, this fish tastes like plastic!" by Steve Rubenstein, people finding clothing fibers when they cut open the fish they catch and clean.

Evidence: It states, " ... to be heavily contaminated with plastic microbeads from cosmetics and plastic fibers from clothing" (par 1).

Analysis:

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Term 4 Entry Assessment

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Analysis: As one can see, contaminated water is leading to inedible seafood for people near and far. Causes of this can range from careless waste management by local cities or even people polluting in the waterways with trash and other items. It's important that brainstorming a solution takes place such as better monitoring of waste management systems and recycle and trash cans at local parks and waterways in which people can use so their trash doesn't end up in the ocean.

Conclusion:

Term 4 Entry Assessment

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Conclusion:

Term 4 End Assessment

Essential Skill Assessment

Name: _____ Per _____

Question: According to the article, "Are You Being Watched?", what are some ways that a person can limit advertisers tracking them?

Claim: According to the article, "Are You Being Watched?" people can limit others tracking of their online activity by adjusting their settings and browsers.

Evidence: The article states, " You can go into the browser settings and disallow cookies, browse in private windows, and turn off your phone's location services" (Par 7).

Analysis: This demonstrates that we all have the ability and tools to stopping people from having access to what we are looking at online. As online tracking continues, the debate of having privacy online will also continue to evolve. This shows that it is important to be mindful of your activity online and what you want others to see.

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