



- 3** Which piece of evidence from the text is **not** relevant to the author’s claim?
- A** “Wind power, in contrast, produces electricity without pollution.”
 - B** “In addition, wind power is a renewable resource that will never run out.”
 - C** “A vast plain dotted with these elegant white machines is an impressive sight to behold.”
 - D** “Constructing offshore wind farms and new transmission lines will be expensive, but it is an investment that will surely pay off in the long run.”

4 Below are three claims that one could make based on the essay “The Case for Wind Power.”

CLAIMS

	Wind power is reliable.
	Wind power is affordable.
	Wind power is ecological.

Part A

Put an “X” by the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient facts in “The Case for Wind Power.”

Part B

Write a short paragraph with at least **three** details to show how the claim you chose in Part A is supported by relevant and sufficient facts in the essay.

Self Check *Go back and see what you can check off on the Self Check on page 169.*

Comparing and Contrasting Texts

CCSS

RI.7.9: Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

Theme: *Facing the Challenges*

Imagine that two artists use the same paints to paint a mountain scene. One creates a dark, scary landscape, and the other paints a bright, peaceful place. Even though the artists use the same materials and paint the same subject, their results depend on the effects they want to achieve and the colors they choose to create those effects. In the same way, authors may write about the same topic, but, depending on their purpose, they may choose to focus on different details and evidence. As a result, they produce very different products.

Look at the cartoon below and think about how the characters are reacting to the poster. What if they both decided to write reports about global warming? How might each of them approach the topic?



Read the information in this chart. Which facts do you think each of the two characters would emphasize when writing about global warming?

General Facts	Causes of the Problem	Effects on Wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth's average temperatures are increasing. • Rising temperatures result in melting of the polar ice caps. • Polar ice melt causes sea levels to rise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fossil-fuel emissions release heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. • The additional heat raises local temperatures and, in turn, impacts Earth's climates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of habitat due to ice melt results in decreasing animal populations. • Changes in feeding and migration patterns put animals at risk.

While both students would probably use the information in the first column, the girl probably would also use the evidence in the second column, while the boy would focus on facts from the third one. Always keep in mind that an author's purpose for writing shapes the way he or she presents key information as well as which facts and evidence are emphasized.



Read the following scientific account about global warming.

Genre: Scientific Account

Global Warming: Why? *by Rex Woodbury*

Scientists who study climate models and climate patterns are concerned that the Earth's average temperatures seem to be increasing. They also report that a warm-up of even a few degrees will have far-reaching effects on climate, wildlife, human food production, and fresh water supplies. Why is this happening?

To understand global warming, imagine that our planet is wrapped in a blanket. The blanket is made up of carbon dioxide and other gases that collect and trap the sun's heat in the Earth's atmosphere. It's important to understand that this blanket serves as protection from the intensity of the sun and its dangerous rays. The burning of fossil fuels and other human activities, however, have changed the make-up of this protective covering. In simple terms, by adding more gases, we've added more layers, and the blanket traps more heat than it should, heat that changes our environment.

Explore how to answer this question: "How does the author's purpose shape the focus of the account and the key information he presents?"

In the first paragraph, the author points out the problem caused by increasing temperatures and then asks a question. In the second paragraph, he answers that question by explaining more about the process of global warming.

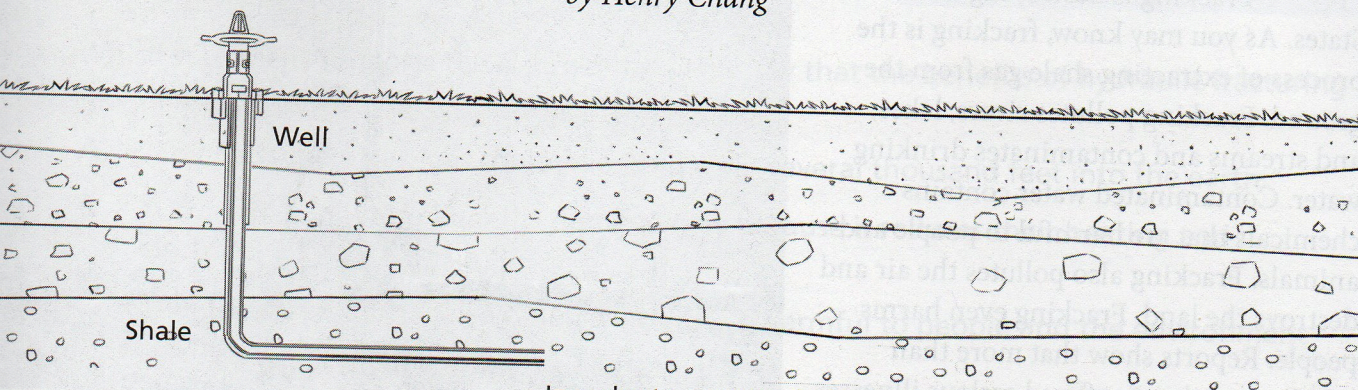
In the chart below, write the focus of this account. After you read the account on the next page, fill in columns 2 and 3. Then compare and contrast the ideas you wrote.

Focus of Account 1	Focus of Account 2	Ideas in Both Accounts

Read these two essays. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Benefits of Shale Gas

by Henry Chang



In order to remove shale gas from the earth, gas companies drill wells deep into the earth's surface and pump fluid into them.

Shale gas is a type of natural gas found under shale rock, which is common throughout the United States. While people have known for a long time that shale gas existed, until recently there was no way to access it. However, modern technology has changed the situation. We can now tap into a vast supply of shale gas which we can use to inexpensively heat homes, power automobiles, and produce electricity. Shale gas has become the fastest-growing energy source in the United States and is the cleanest of all fossil fuels. Burning shale gas releases less carbon dioxide into the air than burning coal or oil.

Despite its benefits, however, many people oppose the use of shale gas. They think that the process used to access shale gas, hydraulic fracturing, also called "fracking," is harmful to people and the environment because it pollutes drinking water. These opponents are mistaken.

To access shale gas, gas companies drill wells several thousand feet into the earth. They pump fluid under high pressure into these wells. This fluid fractures, or breaks up, the shale rock, so the shale gas can be removed from the earth. While this fluid consists mainly of water and sand, it also contains a small amount of chemicals. Those who oppose hydraulic fracturing believe that these chemicals will contaminate drinking water, making it unsafe to drink. However, the risk of this happening is extremely small—and it can be eliminated completely if gas companies avoid drilling near drinking-water sources.

The benefits of hydraulic fracturing far outweigh the risks. For one thing, burning shale gas is good for the economy. The high cost of fuel in the United States has led many businesses to move to other countries. The affordability of shale gas will keep this from happening in the future. It may even encourage some of the businesses that have left the United States to return. Using shale gas also benefits homeowners because it lowers their heating and electricity bills.

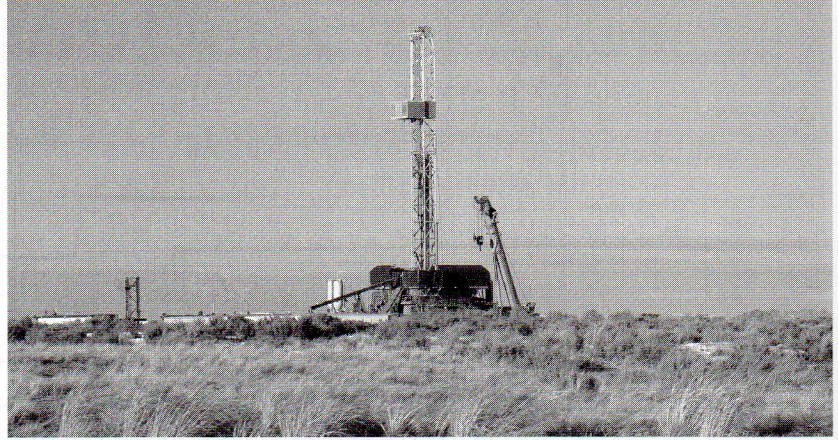
Hydraulic fracturing also creates jobs. As the demand for shale gas increases, gas companies will hire more employees. It is estimated that the use of hydraulic fracturing will create more than 500,000 high-paying, safe jobs. Americans need to embrace the use of shale gas. It is the solution to the energy crisis and the key to a productive future for our country.



Stop the Fracking!

by Cynthia Martinez

1 Fracking is destroying the United States. As you may know, fracking is the process of extracting shale gas from the ground. Fracking pollutes rivers, lakes, and streams and contaminates drinking water. Contaminated water contains chemicals that are harmful to people and animals. Fracking also pollutes the air and destroys the land. Fracking even harms people. Reports show that more than 1,000 people have suffered serious illnesses and/or death from drinking water that was contaminated due to fracking.



Gas companies often set up rigs in farmland areas that are used to extract shale gas from the earth.

2 To extract shale gas from the ground, gas companies drill deep into the earth and force fluids into the ground under high pressure. These fluids break up shale rock and release shale gas. While this process might sound harmless, it is definitely not. Up to 8 million gallons of fluid are used each time shale rock is “fracked.” About 40,000 gallons of chemicals are mixed into this fluid. Some of these chemicals are carcinogens, or chemicals known to cause cancer in humans. These chemicals seep into the ground surrounding the well and contaminate groundwater. This has happened with nearly every well that gas companies have drilled. Gas companies also leave some of the leftover fluid from fracking in open pits, where it eventually evaporates and causes air pollution. This type of pollution damages the ozone layer and causes acid rain.

3 Truck traffic is another major problem associated with fracking. Up to 1,300 trucks may be needed to bring in enough fluid for a single well. These trucks are much too heavy for rural roads. They cause pollution and destroy roadways. Taxpayers may have to pay millions of dollars to repair roads damaged by these trucks.

4 Farmers who are struggling to pay their bills often welcome gas companies onto their land. They are eager to sign a lease from a gas company. And why shouldn't they? Gas companies may pay farmers a million dollars for the right to drill for shale gas on their land. However, these farmers often do not realize that fracking will destroy their land. Crops may not grow there for many years. Fracking will also pollute farmers' drinking water, making the water in their drinking wells smell like chemicals and gasoline. The open pits created by gas companies may cause livestock to become sick or die.

5 Supporters of fracking say that the process creates high-paying jobs. This is misleading. Fracking might create a few jobs, but these jobs do not pay well, and they are not safe. Many workers at drilling sites now have lung cancer. Are these really the types of jobs we want to create for Americans?

6 The dangers of fracking far outweigh the benefits. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating the effects of fracking. Oppose fracking and do your part to save our country!



4 Read these sentences from "Stop the Fracking!"

Truck traffic is another major problem associated with fracking. Up to 1,300 trucks may be needed to bring in enough fluid for a single well. These trucks are much too heavy for rural roads. They cause pollution and destroy roadways. Taxpayers may have to pay millions of dollars to repair roads damaged by these trucks.

Do these sentences support the author's main argument?

- A** No, because they do not have to do with the process of drilling for shale gas.
- B** Yes, because they point out another way that fracking affects taxpayers.
- C** No, because they do not have to do with the contamination of drinking water.
- D** Yes, because they point out another way that fracking harms the environment.

5 Which of these **best** describes how the two authors support the claim that the chemicals in the fluid used in hydraulic fracturing are harmful to people?

- A** The author of "The Benefits of Shale Gas" says chemicals rarely contaminate water, while the author of "Stop the Fracking!" says that the chemicals almost always contaminate water.
- B** The author of "The Benefits of Shale Gas" says the fluid contains only a small amount of harmful chemicals, while the author of "Stop the Fracking!" says the fluid consists mostly of harmful chemicals.
- C** The author of "The Benefits of Shale Gas" says that gas companies do not drill near drinking-water sources, while the author of "Stop the Fracking!" says that gas companies almost always drill near drinking-water sources.
- D** The author of "The Benefits of Shale Gas" says that the water is still safe to drink, while the author of "Stop the Fracking!" says the water is not safe to drink.



6 Write a paragraph evaluating the evidence the author of "The Benefits of Shale Gas" uses to support his claim that burning shale gas is good for the economy. Is the evidence relevant and sufficient? Use details from the essay to support your answer.

Four horizontal lines for writing a paragraph.

7 Below are three claims one could make based on the essay "Stop the Fracking!"

CLAIMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fracking contaminates groundwater.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fracking increases truck traffic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fracking creates high-paying jobs.

Part A

Put an "X" by the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient facts in "Stop the Fracking!"

Part B

Write down two facts from "Stop the Fracking!" that best provide evidence to support the claim selected in Part A.

First fact: _____

Second fact: _____
