

Name _____



Energy Evidence

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Identify the **claims** the author makes. Evaluate whether the **evidence provided** is credible (reliable source, factual, relevant) and sufficient (enough detail, convincing). Answer the questions using **complete sentences** and **textual evidence** where possible.

Excerpt from a Persuasive Essay on Renewable Energy

"The shift toward renewable energy is not just environmentally necessary, it is economically smart. According to a 2022 report from the International Renewable Energy Agency, renewable technologies like solar and wind are now the cheapest sources of new electricity in most parts of the world. In the U.S., solar energy alone employs more than 250,000 workers, surpassing coal mining jobs. Critics argue that renewables are unreliable because the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. However, advances in battery storage have made it possible to store energy for use during off-peak times. Furthermore, Denmark now produces nearly half of its electricity from wind, showing that large-scale reliance is not only possible but already happening."

1. Identify the author's **main claim** in this passage.
2. What evidence does the author use to support the claim that renewables are economically smart? Is it credible? Explain.
3. How does the author address the counterclaim that renewables are unreliable? Is the evidence sufficient?
4. Which piece of evidence in the passage seems strongest? Why?
5. Suggest one type of additional evidence that could make the essay more persuasive.