

Energy Evidence Answer Key

1. The main claim is that renewable energy is both environmentally necessary and economically smart.

2. The author cites a 2022 report from the International Renewable Energy Agency and the fact that solar employs more than 250,000 workers in the U.S.

Credibility: This is credible because it references a reputable international agency and job statistics.

3. The counterclaim is that renewables are unreliable. The author responds by citing advances in battery storage.

Evaluation: This is somewhat sufficient; it addresses the concern directly, but more statistics or long-term data would make it stronger.

4. Denmark producing nearly half of its electricity from wind is the strongest evidence.

Explanation: It provides a real-world, large-scale example that demonstrates feasibility.

5. The author could include cost-savings data for consumers, comparisons of health benefits from reduced pollution, or long-term economic growth projections.

Teacher Note: Accept varied answers as long as they add depth or breadth to the argument.

Teacher Notes

- This activity trains students to **differentiate between claims and evidence** and to **critically evaluate sources**.
- Emphasize that **credible evidence** usually comes from reputable organizations, peer-reviewed studies, or widely recognized statistics.
- Encourage discussion on whether anecdotal evidence or personal opinion would weaken an otherwise strong argument.
- Extension: Have students bring in a recent article about renewable energy and apply the same Evidence Check steps.