

Name _____

Sharpen Your Words Answer Key

Note: Student answers will vary. These are strong examples that use precise academic vocabulary.

1. Example: The author **analyzes** how fear **influences** the main character's choices.
2. Example: The results were **significant**, so the scientists paid attention.
3. Example: The experiment **indicates** that temperature **influences** reaction speed.
4. Example: Many students **suggest** homework is **excessive**, and it has a negative **consequence** for sleep.
5. Example: The two articles **contrast** because one is optimistic and one is critical.
6. Example: Social media can **influence** how people **interpret** themselves.
7. Example: The speaker's example was **specific**, but it needed more **evidence** to **justify** the claim.
8. Example: This law had negative **consequences** after it was passed.
9. Example: The graph **indicates** that attendance **increased** over time.
10. Example: The argument is **complex** and lacks clear connections between ideas.

Teacher's Guide

- **How to introduce:** Explain that precision is not about sounding fancy. It is about choosing words that accurately describe **cause and effect**, **degree**, and **evidence**.
- **Extension ideas:**
 - Have students apply the same strategy to a paragraph from a current class assignment by highlighting vague language and revising it.
 - Ask students to write two versions of one sentence, one vague and one precise, then explain which is clearer and why.