

4.6 Environmental issues: report and reference accurately

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS claim 论断 • referencing style 引用格式

Objective

Write a short evidence-based report, distinguish a count change from its cause and identify a source clearly. All café data below are fictional classroom material.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Key knowledge: method, results and interpretation have different jobs

A report’s method explains how information was collected. Results state what was recorded. Interpretation explains what the results may mean and what remains uncertain. A **claim** 论断 about “less waste” needs a defined measure: disposable cups counted, cups sold, or material thrown away are different quantities.

A **referencing style** 引用格式 gives a consistent way to identify sources. For this practice, use author, year, title and “fictional classroom source card”. Do not invent a journal, publisher, URL or page number. A reference identifies a source; it does not make its conclusion reliable.

■ Source A: observation card

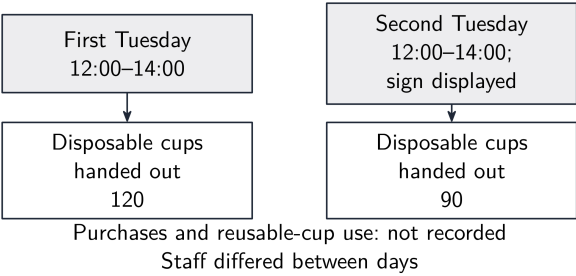
Author: L. Rao. Year: 2026. Title: Café Cup Trial. Status: fictional classroom source card. A student counted disposable cups handed out at the campus café from 12:00 to 14:00 on two Tuesdays. On the first Tuesday, 120 cups were handed out. Before the second Tuesday, staff displayed a sign inviting customers to bring reusable cups; ninety disposable cups were handed out during the second count. Different staff served on the two days. The card does not record total drink purchases, how many reusable cups were used, or any cups discarded outside the café. No further observation day is included.

■ Source B: poster draft

“Our new sign cut all campus cup waste by one quarter. It works for every café, so no more measurements are needed.”

■ Worked example: separate the result from the explanation

Known: the count changed from 120 to 90 for the same two-hour window on two different days. The count decreased by thirty. The sign was not the only recorded condition that changed.



Model: “Rao’s fictional Café Cup Trial (2026) recorded fewer disposable cups handed out on the second Tuesday. The two-day comparison does not isolate the sign’s effect because purchases were not counted and staff differed.” “Fewer handed out” preserves the measure. “All campus waste” replaces it with an unmeasured outcome and location.

2 Practice

2.1 State the observation time window and identify exactly what was counted. [2]

2.2 State the disposable-cup counts for the first and second Tuesday. [2]

2.3 Identify TWO ways in which the poster’s claim exceeds the card’s evidence. Explain one of them. [3]

2.4 Write a source-list entry using the author, year, title and fictional source status. Explain why adding an invented journal name would be misleading. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Write a 60–80 word results-and-limits paragraph for a class report. Attribute the source, preserve the counted measure and give two limits. Do not claim a proven sign effect. [6]

3.2 Write a 100–130 word recommendation for a further café trial. Explain two useful records to add, why more observation days would help and how the conclusion should be worded until stronger evidence exists. [8]
