

Name _____

access	advance	analysis	cite
counterpoint	data	drawbacks	reasoning

Use each pair of vocabulary words in a single sentence.

1. access, data

2. advance, reasoning

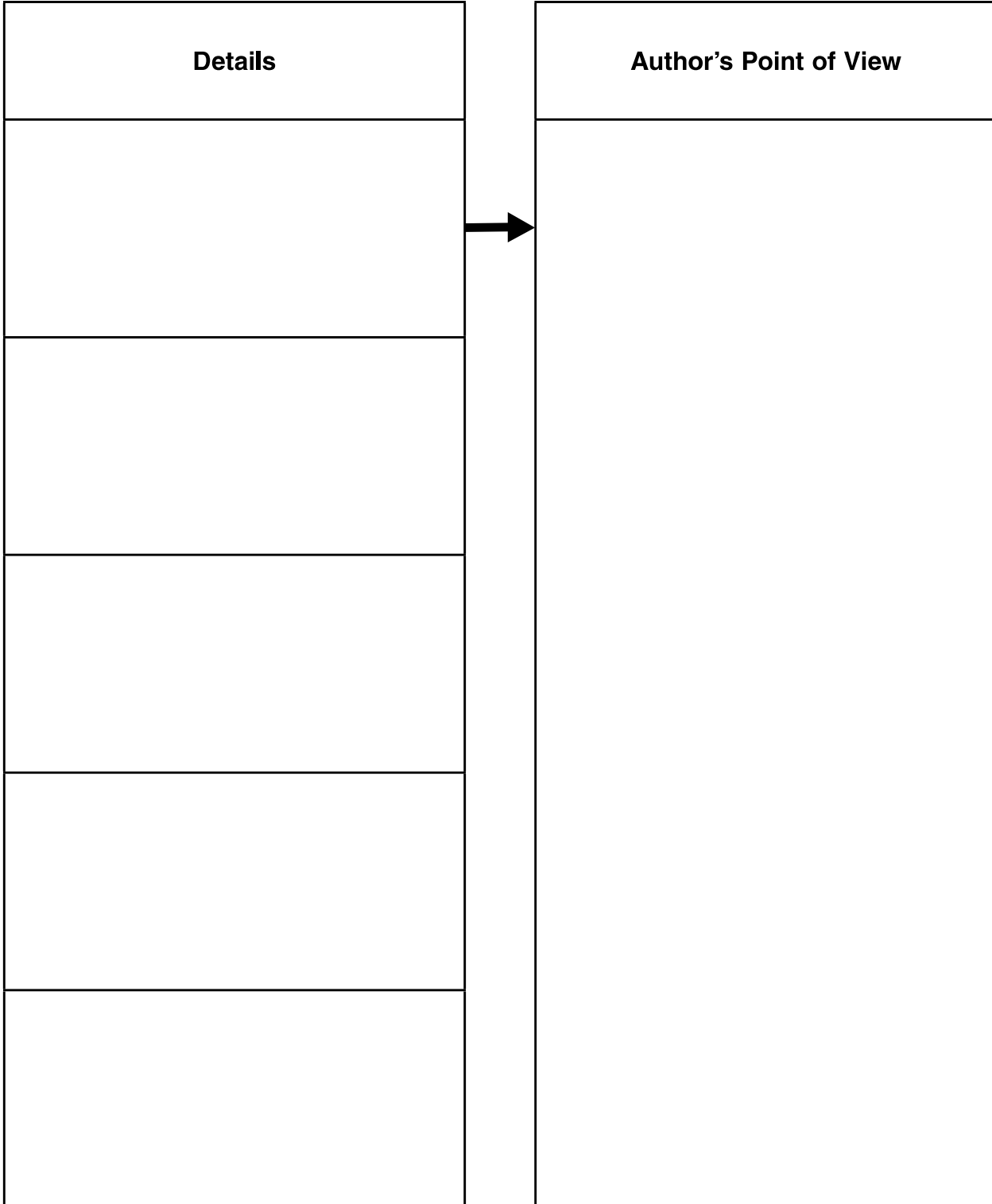
3. drawbacks, counterpoint

4. cite, analysis

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the author's point of view graphic organizer.

Details	Author's Point of View



Name _____

Read the two passages by two different authors. Use the reread strategy to check your understanding of each author's position on this issue.

DO GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS BENEFIT THE WORLD?

The GMF Solution

3 *Genetically modified foods help fight malnutrition.*

9 Science has often provided answers to our problems. The development
19 of medicines, for example, helps cure diseases. Genetically modified
28 foods can be just as helpful. Genetically modified foods are foods whose
40 genes have been changed. A gene is a part of a cell that controls how a
56 living thing looks and functions. Farmers have changed genes in crops for
68 centuries by transferring pollen from one type of plant to another.

79 Science Lends a Hand

83 Today, scientists can make the same types of changes much faster than
95 farmers can. Even though the scientists work in laboratories, their work is
107 not very different from what farmers were already doing.

116 Scientists can change crops in a more exact way. They have made
128 new types of corn that resist plant diseases and insects. These changes
140 mean farmers can use fewer chemicals on their crops. That means fewer
152 chemicals in our food and water, which helps protect the environment.

163 Better Food and More of It

169 Scientists have also increased the nutrition in certain crops. They added
180 iron to rice and made other rice that helps bodies produce vitamin A. Such
194 genetically modified foods can fight malnutrition.

200 Genetically changed food can help fight world hunger in other ways,
211 too. Scientists can create crops that will grow in harsh conditions. They
223 can speed up and increase the harvest of crops. This will allow more food
237 to be grown and more people to be fed.

246 Genetically modified food may seem strange, but eventually people will
256 see that it holds the answers to many of the world's problems.

Name _____

A Risky Business

Genetically modified foods may not be safe.

Genetically modified foods might seem like science fiction, but they are already part of our everyday lives. Most processed foods in the United States, such as breakfast cereal, contain ingredients that have been genetically changed. Are those foods safe? We don't know.

Scientists Follow an Uncertain Path

When scientists genetically change food crops, they take genes from one species, or type of living thing—such as bacteria, and add those genes to the food crop. Scientists have not studied the long-term results of these interspecies changes or their effects on human health. For example, if a gene from fish were put into peas, would someone allergic to fish also be allergic to those peas? Scientists say no, but they have not tested the theory to be sure.

Some genes that have been added to crops are unaffected by antibiotics. Antibiotics are medicines that fight diseases caused by bacteria. What happens when people eat food that has these genes? Will they become less able to fight off illness? We do not know.

Future Effects on the Environment

What about the environmental effects of genetically modified food? Farmers have seen pollen carried from genetically modified corn to natural corn. Could this change natural corn? Could genetically modified crops that are resistant to insects cause some insects to die off, creating an imbalance in the ecosystem?

All this uncertainty should lead us to develop genetically modified foods with extreme caution, if at all.



Genetically modifying food crops may produce both benefits and problems.

Steve Cole/Photodisc/Getty Images

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Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What is an example the first author gives of how science has solved a problem?

2. What are two ways the first author thinks genetically modified foods are better?

3. What is the second author's point of view about genetically changed foods?

4. What argument does the second author make to support that point of view?

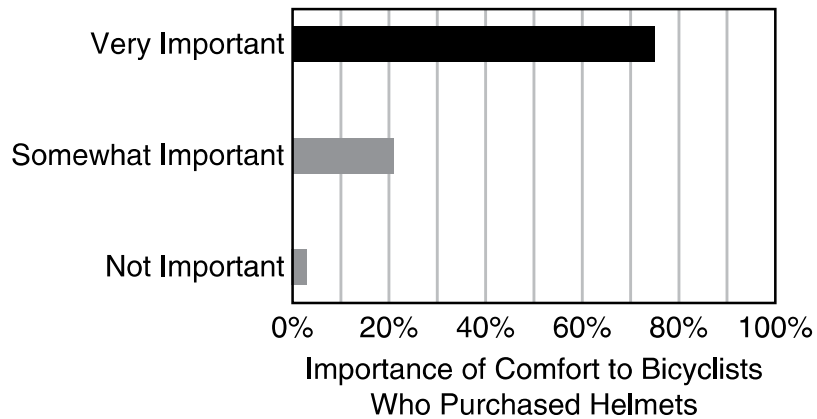
B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to phrasing. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	

Name _____

Safety Should Come First!

Everyone should wear a bike helmet when riding a bike, but only about half of bicyclists report that they always wear a helmet. Many riders complain that helmets are uncomfortable. Advances in helmet technology can change that. Helmets are now made out of materials that are very lightweight. Other helmets have gel pads to make them more comfortable. New designs also include vents, or slits, to keep riders from getting too hot. With these cool new helmets, there's no excuse not to put one on!



Answer the questions about the text.

1. What is the point of view of the author of this text?

2. Name a major argument the author makes to support that point of view.

3. What is the text feature in this text? What type of information does it provide?

4. What details in the text feature support the author's argument?

Name _____

Read each passage and underline each correct word choice. Then write a definition of the word you chose.

1. Scientists have also increased the nutrition in certain crops. Such genetically modified foods can fight (malnutrition, internutrition, transnutrition).

2. Scientists have not studied the long-term results of these (ecospecies, malspecies, interspecies) changes or their effects on human health. For example, if a gene from fish were put into peas, would someone allergic to fish also be allergic to those peas?

3. Could genetically modified crops that are resistant to insects cause some insects to die off, creating an (ecobalance, imbalance, interbalance) in the (intersystem, malsystem, ecosystem)?

Name _____

A. Read each sentence. Circle the words that have the /ûr/ sound.

1. It was a perfect day to go surfing in the ocean.
2. The coach was stern, but she spurred the team to victory.
3. The dog ran in circles around the children, yearning to play.
4. I am scared about what might lurk around the corner.
5. I think that bird will pursue the flying insect.

B. Read the words in each row. Underline the two words in the row that contain the /ûr/ sound.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|---------|
| 6. clear | spurt | engineer | swerve |
| 7. verse | jeer | sneer | western |
| 8. surface | dreary | tearful | squirm |
| 9. urban | lurch | year | aboard |
| 10. thirsty | clear | blurt | barge |

Name _____

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s opinion. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence that supports his or her opinion about how two authors used word choice to help achieve a purpose.

Topic sentence	→	The authors of “The GMF Solution” and “A Risky Business” both do good jobs of choosing words and examples that support specific points of view.
Evidence	→	The author of the first article uses strong, effective language to suggest that scientists are changing crops in the same way that farmers have for thousands of years, only faster. The author of the second article asks questions about the safety of genetically modified foods. The writer also uses scientific terms clearly and accurately throughout the article. That helps the reader evaluate the arguments for the author’s point of view.
Concluding statement	→	In my opinion, both authors make their points of view convincing.

Write a paragraph about the text you have chosen. Show how the author used word choice to express a point of view. Cite evidence from the text. Remember to support your opinions with logical reasons and to use complete sentences.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the text: _____

End with a concluding statement: _____
