

Name: _____

Date: _____

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Weekly Reading HW

HW Wk _____

Directions: Read and annotate the passage below. Then answer the questions.

A Forensic Approach to a Sidewalk Nuisance

Problems? Yes, conceded Tommaso Sodano, the vice mayor of Naples, Italy. Unpaid debts have reportedly topped \$2 billion. Many streets are pocked with potholes. The police department is underfunded. Crime is rampant. And then there is what dogs leave behind on the sidewalks. Naples has no shortage of that, either. Yet to the surprise of some people, the municipal government is using DNA samples of dogs in an effort to eradicate dog waste from the city.

The affluent neighborhood of Vomero is serving as a testing ground for the cleanup campaign, which many residents are surprised, is happening in Naples. Ms. Sihvonen, a resident, said she often watches a man release his three dogs into the streets to run off to do their business every morning. He whistles, the dogs return, and their waste is left behind. “He’s not the only one,” she added.

The problem is as universal as cockroaches, and seemingly as unsolvable. Urban dog ownership demands a balance of love and duty, and not everyone is dutiful about cleaning up after the morning walk. Cities have tried everything from the postal service (a Spanish mayor mailed the stuff back to dog owners) to shaming (some cities have publicized the names of offending owners) to bribery (some parks in Mexico City offered free Wi-Fi in exchange for bags of waste). Naples has opted for science and technology. The idea is that every dog in the city will be given a blood test for DNA profiling in order to create a database of dogs and owners. When an offending pile is discovered, it will be scraped up and subjected to DNA testing. If a match is made in the database, the owner will face a fine of up to 500 euros, or about \$685.

The DNA initiative might seem a tad ambitious for Naples and its 80,000 or so dogs. Mr. Sodano, however, is confident the program will work. At the city’s veterinary hospital, technicians have taken blood samples from about 200 dogs, many of them accompanied by owners who were appalled by the problem. “It’s really disgusting,” said Dr. Maria Ceccarelli, who came to the hospital with her Labrador. “I don’t see people walking their dogs. I just see the results in the street.”

Despite some early success in the reduction of dog waste, many have criticized the use of city funds for a seemingly trivial matter. Mr. Sodano said the concerns about finances were understandable but misplaced. He said the cleanup enforcement program was a chance to demonstrate municipal problem solving and to remind citizens that they have responsibilities, too. “The main goal is respect for the rules, and that everyone must do the small things to keep Naples beautiful,” he said.

1. (RST.9-10.4) As it is used in the passage, the word *rampant* means:
 - a. Luxurious
 - b. Widespread
 - c. Controlled
 - d. Suppressed
2. (RST.9-10.1) Which of the following is NOT one of the problems that Naples has:
 - a. Lack of funds for the police department
 - b. Abundance of debts that have not been paid
 - c. Abundance of litter
 - d. Abundance of potholes

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3. (RST.9-10.2) The purpose of the third paragraph is to show:
- a. The number of dogs per person in the city of Naples.
 - b. The differing opinions of residents in the city.
 - c. The creative approaches to solve such a widespread problem.
 - d. The problems created in the development of the program.
4. (RST.9-10.1) Which of the following statements would a person who does not support the dog-waste reduction program agree with the most?
- a. Naples has found a creative solution to a thousand-year old problem.
 - b. Naples is striving to become a leader in innovation and technology.
 - c. Naples has not developed a penalty that is severe enough to fit the act.
 - d. Naples has more important problems that demand the city's attention and funds.

5. (RST.9-10.1) What are the details of the dog waste cleanup program?

6. (RST.9-10.1) What does the author mean by the phrase, "a seemingly trivial matter," in the last paragraph?

Adapted from the article, "A Forensic Approach to a Sidewalk Nuisance" by Jim Yardley for The New York Times, on February 22, 2014.