

CHEAT SHEET · WRITING A C2 ESSAY?

7 collocations that make it sound C2.

Swap the plain phrase for the collocation. Each one lifts a formal essay to C2.

1 cast doubt on

= make something seem less certain

GOES WITH findings · claims · the evidence

PLAIN

The new data makes us less sure about earlier findings.

C2

The new data **casts doubt on** earlier findings.

2 raise concerns about

= make people worried about something

GOES WITH privacy · safety · costs

PLAIN

The plan makes people worried about privacy.

C2

The plan has **raised concerns about** privacy.

3 play a pivotal role in

= be central to how something happens

GOES WITH shaping · recovery · development

PLAIN

Teachers are very important in shaping attitudes.

C2

Teachers **play a pivotal role in** shaping attitudes.

4 draw a distinction between

= show how two things differ

GOES WITH fact and opinion · cause and effect

PLAIN

It is worth saying how needs and wants are different.

C2

It is worth **drawing a distinction between** needs and wants.

5 pose a threat to

= be a danger to

GOES WITH health · security · wildlife

PLAIN

Rising sea levels are dangerous for coastal towns.

C2

Rising sea levels **pose a threat to** coastal towns.

6 bear the brunt of

= suffer the worst part of something

GOES WITH the cuts · the crisis · the storm

PLAIN

Price rises hurt low-income families the most.

C2

Low-income families **bear the brunt of** price rises.

7 lay the groundwork for

= prepare the basis for something

GOES WITH reform · growth · a deal

PLAIN

Early reading prepares children for later success.

C2

Early reading **lays the groundwork for** later success.

NEXT STEP

Put them to work in a C2 mock.

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