**Vocabulary: “The Race Against Death”**

**Directions:** Read the following definitions and example sentences. Then add another word from the article.

1. **antitoxin (an-tahy-TOK-sin) noun;** a substance that stops or reduces the effect of a poison  
   **example:** After a rattlesnake bit him, Clarence was rushed to the hospital and given an antitoxin.

2. **epidemic (ep-ih-DEM-ik)**  
   1. **noun;** a widespread occurrence of a negative event, especially an infectious disease; 2. **adjective;** affecting a large number of people; widespread  
   **example 1:** The flu epidemic has now hit all 50 states.  
   **example 2:** By 1985, the number of AIDS cases in America had risen to epidemic proportions.

3. **frostbite (FRAWST-bahyt) noun;** the freezing of the skin or deeper layers of tissue in some part of the body; an injury caused by severe cold, often to the nose, cheeks, chin, fingers, toes, or ears  
   **example:** Frostbite is a serious condition, so be sure to wear warm clothes when you go outside.

4. **neutralize (NOO-truh-lahyz) verb;** to make something ineffective or harmless  
   **example:** Placing a box of baking soda in the refrigerator will neutralize bad smells.

5. **outpost (OWT-pohst) noun;** 1. a military camp apart from the main group of soldiers, which guards against a surprise attack; 2. a settlement or station on a frontier or in a faraway place  
   **example 1:** The army prepared for battle after the outpost sent word of an approaching enemy.  
   **example 2:** The people at the outpost were shocked to see us approaching. Largely cut off from the rest of the world, they didn’t get many visitors.

6. **serum (SEER-uhm) noun;** 1. the clear, thin, liquid part of the blood; it separates from blood when blood clots; 2. a liquid used to prevent or cure a disease; it is usually taken from the blood of an animal that has had the disease and is immune to it (also called antiserum)  
   **example 1:** The doctor took a blood-serum sample to check Elliott’s dad’s cholesterol level.  
   **example 2:** Jasper was saved by the serum he received at the hospital.

7. **windchill (WIND-chil) noun;** a measurement given in degrees that reports the combined effect of low temperature and the wind speed on exposed skin  
   **example:** It was 40 degrees outside, but the windchill made it feel much colder.

8. **windpipe (WIND-pahyp) noun;** the tube that links the lungs and the throat and that carries air for breathing; the trachea  
   **example:** Janet started coughing after a bit of food went down her windpipe.

9. __________________ (___________) _____________: ________________________________  
   **example: ________________________________________________________________  
   __________________________________________________________________________

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Vocabulary Practice: “The Race Against Death”

Directions: Complete the sentences using a form of the vocabulary words listed in the Word Bank.

**WORD BANK**

- antitoxin
- epidemic
- frostbite
- neutralize
- outpost
- windpipe
- windchill

1. According to the weather report, the __________________ makes it feel like 26 degrees outside.

2. The general explained the plan to ________________ the enemy troops.

3. Swelling of the ________________ makes it difficult to breathe.

4. During the mid-14th century, a/an ________________ called the Black Death killed millions of people across Europe.

5. Dave worried that he would get ________________ while waiting in the cold for the bus.

6. Scientists from the university built a research ________________ deep in the jungle.

7. “Watch out for spiders,” warned our tour guide, “because obtaining a/an ________________ is difficult in these parts.”

Directions: Choose two of the vocabulary words listed on the first two pages of this activity. Write a single sentence that includes both words.

8. ____________________________________________

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