

Name _____

Date _____

Using Modal Auxiliaries

Antarctic Journal
Grammar: Modal Auxiliaries

Modal Auxiliary	What It Expresses
may	Someone has permission to do an action.
should	I think the action probably ought to happen.
must	I think the action absolutely needs to happen.
can	Someone has the ability to do an action.
will	This forms a future tense.

Thinking Question
Which modal auxiliary helps express my idea clearly?

1–4. Circle the modal auxiliary in parentheses that clearly expresses the idea in the sentence.

1. Today our teacher told us that we (may, must) write our term papers on Antarctica.
2. “You all (will, can) do research at the library or online, so use whichever you prefer,” our teacher said.
3. “Everyone (should, will) choose a specific topic and begin researching by Tuesday,” she advised.
4. According to the assignment sheet, we (can, may) write about the weather, the land, or the animals in Antarctica.

5–6. Write a modal auxiliary on the line that best expresses the idea.

5. To do my best on this report, I _____ find a topic I want to learn about.
6. Tomorrow, I _____ ask whether I may write about scientific expeditions to Antarctica.