A Case for Shade

Read a model argument and trace how its evidence supports a claim.

7.CL.7.c "Write an argument to defend a position by introducing and supporting claim(s), acknowledging alternate or opposing claims, and presenting reasons and relevant text evidence from accurate and credible sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim, circle the opposing idea, and number two pieces of evidence from named sources. Marking these parts will help you see how the writer builds the argument.

Shade for the Pickup Lane

1. At dismissal, the paved pickup lane at Brookview Middle School can feel hotter than the grassy field beside it. Our school should plant shade trees along the edge of that lane. This is not a plan to cover every inch of pavement. It is a way to give students and families a cooler place to wait on sunny days. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains that trees cool places by blocking sunlight and by releasing water vapor from their leaves. That evidence supports planting trees where people stand.

2. Heat is more than an annoyance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises people to spend time in shade and drink water when they are outside in hot weather. Students may wait only a short time at dismissal, but the lane is used day after day. Shade along its edge would give people a place to step out of direct sun. The EPA also notes that pavement can absorb and hold heat. Together, these sources make the pickup lane a sensible place to start.

3. Some families might prefer a fabric shade canopy because it could provide cover sooner than new trees. That is a fair concern: a young tree does not cast a wide shadow right away. A canopy could help while trees grow, but it would not replace the value of living shade. The EPA explains that trees also cool the surrounding air as water leaves their leaves, a process a canopy cannot provide. The school should choose trees as its lasting plan and consider temporary cover during the wait.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the writer claim the school should make, and why does the pickup lane matter to that claim?

2. Which EPA detail supports choosing the pickup lane as the place to start? Explain the connection.

3. What opposing idea does the writer acknowledge? How does the writer respond without dismissing it?

4. What CDC advice does the writer use, and how does it support the claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

The school can fund only one first step for an unshaded lunch area beside pavement: install a canopy now or plant trees this spring. Write a 5- to 6-sentence argument for one choice, with two reasons tied to EPA and CDC evidence from the passage, an opposing claim, and a fair reply.

ANSWER KEY # A Case for Shade

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim, circle the opposing idea, and number two pieces of evidence from named sources. Marking these parts will help you see how the writer builds the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the writer claim the school should make, and why does the pickup lane matter to that claim?	**The school should plant shade trees along the pickup lane because students and families wait there on sunny days.**
2	Which EPA detail supports choosing the pickup lane as the place to start? Explain the connection.	**The EPA notes that pavement absorbs and holds heat. Since the pickup lane is paved, people waiting there could benefit from shade.**
3	What opposing idea does the writer acknowledge? How does the writer respond without dismissing it?	**Some families prefer a canopy because it would provide shade sooner. The writer accepts that concern and suggests temporary cover while trees grow, but argues that trees also cool the air.**
4	What CDC advice does the writer use, and how does it support the claim?	**The CDC advises people to spend time in shade and drink water in hot weather. Trees would give people waiting at the lane a place out of direct sun.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should put a canopy over the outdoor lunch area first. The CDC advises people to spend time in shade during hot weather, and a canopy could provide that shade right away. The EPA notes that pavement absorbs and holds heat, so students eating beside pavement need a place out of direct sun. Some people favor planting trees because the EPA says trees cool air as well as provide shade. Trees are valuable, but young trees will not cast wide shadows this spring. A canopy is the better first step while the school plans future planting.

Accept either choice in Part 3 if the response supports its claim with relevant evidence from both named sources and treats the opposing choice fairly. Students may paraphrase the sources rather than quote them.