# Shade and Sources

Read a proposal that uses research without overstating it.

**9.RL.24** "Utilize responsible and ethical research practices to write clear, coherent products with a command of language suitable for a particular target audience and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two research-based claims, circle the source named for each, and number two places where the writer limits a claim so the council can judge the proposal fairly.

### A Cooler Walk to School

1. To the student council: The walk from the bus stop to our school's front doors has little shade. On warm afternoons, that stretch can feel harder than its short distance suggests. I propose asking the school to add shade along the existing walkway, starting with a few trees where the grounds team says roots will not disrupt pavement. This proposal is not based on a temperature study of our campus. It is a practical response to a familiar problem, supported by published guidance about heat and shade.

2. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains in "Using Trees and Vegetation to Reduce Heat Islands" that trees cool nearby areas by shading surfaces and releasing water vapor. That evidence supports adding shade, but it does not tell us which trees will survive here. Before making a planting plan, we should ask a local extension office about suitable species and check with the grounds team about underground utilities. We should also keep the walkway wide enough for everyone to use. A well-placed tree could help students without creating a new obstacle.

3. Trees take time to grow, so our first step could be asking for a temporary shade canopy near the bus stop while the school studies longer-term options. The National Weather Service's "Heat Safety" guidance advises people to drink water and seek shade during hot weather. I am not claiming that a canopy would prevent heat illness or that our walkway is hotter than other parts of town. Instead, I am asking the council to bring this modest plan to the principal and request a site review before any money is spent.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Choose one research-based claim in the proposal. How does naming its source help the student council evaluate it?

2. The writer describes the walkway as having little shade. Why does the writer also say the proposal is not based on a campus temperature study?

3. Why would the EPA claim alone be insufficient for choosing trees for this walkway? Name one additional check the writer proposes.

4. How does the final paragraph make a useful request to the council without claiming more than the research supports?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 70- to 95-word paragraph to the principal proposing a different action for hot days, not trees or a shade canopy. Accurately paraphrase one claim from a named source in the passage, separate that claim from your recommendation, and avoid promising an unproven result.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · 9.RL.24

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two research-based claims, circle the source named for each, and number two places where the writer limits a claim so the council can judge the proposal fairly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Choose one research-based claim in the proposal. How does naming its source help the student council evaluate it? | **The EPA explains that trees cool nearby areas through shade and water vapor. Naming the agency and publication lets the council find and check that claim.** |
| 2 | The writer describes the walkway as having little shade. Why does the writer also say the proposal is not based on a campus temperature study? | **The writer separates a local observation from measured evidence and does not imply that campus temperatures have been studied.** |
| 3 | Why would the EPA claim alone be insufficient for choosing trees for this walkway? Name one additional check the writer proposes. | **The EPA claim does not identify species suited to this site. The writer proposes consulting a local extension office, checking underground utilities, or preserving enough walkway space.** |
| 4 | How does the final paragraph make a useful request to the council without claiming more than the research supports? | **It asks the council to take a plan to the principal and request a site review, while explicitly avoiding a claim that a canopy would prevent heat illness.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Rivera, I propose adding a water-bottle refill station near the bus stop, if plumbing and accessibility checks show that the location works. The National Weather Service's "Heat Safety" guidance recommends drinking water during hot weather. That advice supports making water easier to get, but it does not prove that one station would prevent heat illness at our school. Our student council could ask the facilities team to estimate installation and upkeep costs before making a decision. If a station is not feasible, we could identify an existing fountain on the bus route.

Accept accurate paraphrases that identify the relevant source and distinguish published guidance from a local observation or proposed action. For the writing task, accept other feasible actions if the source claim is accurate and the writer does not present a predicted outcome as proven.