

# A Case for Shade

Trace how a speaker builds a clear proposal for an audience.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.4** "Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle the speaker's main claim, number the two reasons in the order they are presented, and underline the evidence that supports a reason. These marks show how the speaker helps listeners follow the proposal.

### Three Trees for the Blacktop

- ① Good afternoon, principal and student council. I am proposing that our school add three shade trees near the blacktop. At lunch, many students eat or wait for games in direct sun. Shade would make that area more comfortable during warm months. My plan is not only about comfort. It is a practical way to protect students from too much sun while improving a space that nearly everyone uses. Here is why this change deserves attention.
- ② First, trees can lower surface and air temperatures by blocking sunlight and releasing water vapor. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that shade from trees can reduce temperatures in nearby areas. Our blacktop absorbs heat, so a shaded edge could give students a cooler place to stand. Second, trees offer a long-lasting benefit. Unlike a temporary canopy, healthy trees can provide shade for many years and also create habitat for birds and insects near school grounds.
- ③ To make this plan workable, the student council could ask the grounds manager to suggest safe planting spots. Then the council could estimate the cost of young trees and seek help from a local garden group. I know the school must balance many needs, so I am asking for a small first step, not a major project. Please consider adding three trees this year. This choice addresses the heat students feel now and gives our school a cooler, greener gathering place later.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the speaker asking the principal and student council to do?

---

---

2 How does the speaker organize the two main reasons for the proposal?

---

---

3 What source-based evidence does the speaker use, and which reason does it support?

---

---

4 How does the speaker make the request sound practical for the school audience?

---

---

## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write speaker notes for a 45-second proposal to improve one part of your school. State a clear claim, give two reasons in a logical order, include at least one specific piece of evidence, and end with a realistic action your audience could take.

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Circle the speaker's main claim, number the two reasons in the order they are presented, and underline the evidence that supports a reason. These marks show how the speaker helps listeners follow the proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                           | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the speaker asking the principal and student council to do?                | <b>Add three shade trees near the blacktop.</b>                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2 | How does the speaker organize the two main reasons for the proposal?               | <b>The speaker gives the cooling benefit first, then explains that trees provide long-lasting shade and habitat.</b>                                                                                 |
| 3 | What source-based evidence does the speaker use, and which reason does it support? | <b>The speaker cites the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's explanation that tree shade can reduce nearby temperatures. It supports the reason that trees can make the blacktop area cooler.</b> |
| 4 | How does the speaker make the request sound practical for the school audience?     | <b>The speaker suggests safe planting spots, estimating costs, seeking help from a local garden group, and starting with only three trees.</b>                                                       |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Good afternoon, principal and student council. I propose adding a water bottle refill station near the gym. Students use the gym for classes, practices, and games, but the nearest fountain is down the hall. First, a refill station would make it easier for students to drink water before and after exercise. Second, it could reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles in our trash cans. During last week's basketball practice, several players left the gym to refill bottles. Please ask the facilities team to study the cost and location of one station near the gym.

Accept equivalent statements that identify the claim, the ordered reasons, the EPA evidence, and the practical steps. For the open task, look for a clear line of reasoning, relevant evidence, and a request suited to a real school audience.