Heat Plan Test

Evaluate a public proposal by weighing its evidence and gaps.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.8 "Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that states the author's main recommendation. Circle each sentence that gives evidence or identifies missing evidence, then write S if it supports the recommendation or C if it raises doubt about it.

Which Heat Project Comes First?

1. Riverton's council should spend its first heat-safety funds on shade structures at bus stops and schoolyards rather than on a citywide tree-planting campaign. The proposal rests on a practical premise: residents need cooler places during the hottest hours, including in paved areas where mature trees cannot grow. Paved surfaces absorb solar energy and can become much hotter than nearby air, leaving people at uncovered stops exposed to radiant heat. The author argues that covered waiting areas could protect riders immediately, while young trees would need years before they cast broad shade.

2. Two sources complicate the choice. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that trees and vegetation cool communities through shade and evapotranspiration. That information suggests that tree planting can reduce heat, especially after trees mature. Yet a 2023 report from the National Weather Service notes that heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States. This urgency does not show which project cools a specific block most effectively, but it does make the timing of protection relevant. The author treats immediate shade as more important than long-term cooling benefits.

3. Cost evidence remains incomplete. The author does not provide prices for installing, repairing, or replacing shade structures. Nor does the proposal estimate how many bus stops and schoolyards lack shade or whether landlords and utility lines limit planting sites. Those gaps matter because a small canopy project might reach only a fraction of people exposed to heat. On the other hand, trees can offer benefits beyond cooling, including habitat and stormwater management. Before choosing a first investment, council members would need local cost estimates, maps of exposure, and projections for both immediate and future shade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the author's main recommendation. Then identify the premise that makes the recommendation seem reasonable.

2. Which information in paragraph 2 could challenge the author's recommendation? Explain how it creates doubt.

3. Why is the National Weather Service information about heat deaths not enough by itself to prove that shade structures should come first?

4. Name two missing pieces of local information that would help test the author's recommendation. Explain why each would matter.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use this outside information: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that cool roofs reflect more sunlight than conventional roofs and can lower roof temperatures. In exactly three sentences, explain whether this information corroborates or challenges the author's recommendation, then name one limit of the information.

ANSWER KEY

Heat Plan Test

HIGH SCHOOL · RH.11-12.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that states the author's main recommendation. Circle each sentence that gives evidence or identifies missing evidence, then write S if it supports the recommendation or C if it raises doubt about it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the author's main recommendation. Then identify the premise that makes the recommendation seem reasonable.	**The council should prioritize shade structures at bus stops and schoolyards over a citywide tree-planting campaign. The premise is that people need cooler places immediately, including paved locations where mature trees cannot grow.**
2	Which information in paragraph 2 could challenge the author's recommendation? Explain how it creates doubt.	**The EPA information says trees and vegetation cool communities through shade and evapotranspiration. It creates doubt because tree planting can also reduce heat, especially after trees mature.**
3	Why is the National Weather Service information about heat deaths not enough by itself to prove that shade structures should come first?	**It shows that heat protection is urgent, but it does not compare the cooling effect, cost, speed, or reach of shade structures and tree planting in Riverton.**
4	Name two missing pieces of local information that would help test the author's recommendation. Explain why each would matter.	**Local cost estimates and maps of heat exposure would help. Costs would allow the council to compare what each project can provide for the money, and exposure maps would show whether shade structures would reach the people and places with the greatest need.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The EPA information challenges the recommendation because cool roofs may offer another way to reduce heat, especially at schools with large roofs. It does not prove that cool roofs are better than shade structures because it gives no Riverton costs, locations, or effect on people waiting at bus stops. The council should compare those details before treating shade structures as the first investment.

Accept defensible evaluations when students accurately connect a passage detail or outside information to the author's recommendation. Students should distinguish evidence that shows heat is urgent from evidence that directly compares possible projects.