Shade and Sun

Track a writer's view and responses to other views.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.6 "Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words and sentences that show the author's view. Circle each different view or concern, then number the author's response to each one.

A Case for Solar Canopies

1. At our school, the parking lot bakes in the afternoon, and students cross hot pavement after activities. I support adding solar canopies above part of the lot. These structures hold solar panels overhead while leaving space below for cars. Panels turn sunlight into electricity, and the canopies would also create shade. Our school should study the project now, not treat it as a faraway dream. A shaded parking area could make pickup more comfortable while helping the school produce some of its own power.

2. Some neighbors may say the money should go toward more classroom supplies. That concern deserves a careful budget, especially because installing canopies can cost a lot at first. However, choosing supplies or solar power is not always an either-or decision. Grants, community partnerships, and a phased plan could lower the cost. Others suggest planting trees instead. Trees are valuable, but young trees take years to grow large enough for broad shade, and they do not generate electricity. For these reasons, I see canopies as a practical long-term investment.

3. Critics might worry that solar panels will look unattractive or will need maintenance. I understand that equipment must be inspected and repaired over time. Still, the appearance concern should not decide the whole issue. Canopies can be designed to match school colors, and maintenance is a normal part of caring for any school property. The bigger question is whether the canopies provide useful shade and electricity over many years. By comparing costs, energy savings, and student comfort, the school can make a responsible choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What position does the author take, and what does the author want the school to do?

2. How does the author respond to people who think the money should go only toward classroom supplies?

3. How does the author distinguish solar canopies from the idea of planting trees instead?

4. Before disagreeing with concerns about appearance and maintenance, what does the author do? How does the author explain why the project should still be considered?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement idea that is not mentioned in the passage. Write exactly 4 sentences that state your position, describe a different view, and explain why your position is stronger using a reason or fact.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · RI.7.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words and sentences that show the author's view. Circle each different view or concern, then number the author's response to each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What position does the author take, and what does the author want the school to do?	**The author supports solar canopies over part of the parking lot and wants the school to study the project now.**
2	How does the author respond to people who think the money should go only toward classroom supplies?	**The author says the cost needs careful planning, but supplies and solar power do not have to be an either-or choice. Grants, partnerships, and a phased plan could lower the cost.**
3	How does the author distinguish solar canopies from the idea of planting trees instead?	**The author says trees are valuable, but young trees need years to provide broad shade and do not generate electricity.**
4	Before disagreeing with concerns about appearance and maintenance, what does the author do? How does the author explain why the project should still be considered?	**The author acknowledges that equipment needs inspection and repair. Then the author argues that appearance is not the whole issue because canopies can match school colors and could provide shade and electricity for years.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I support installing a water-bottle filling station near the gym. Some people may prefer buying bottled water for events because it seems simpler. However, a filling station lets students refill reusable bottles during practices, so the school would need fewer single-use bottles. Although the station would cost money to install, its convenience and reduced bottle use make it the better choice.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the author's support for solar canopies and the ways the author acknowledges and responds to other views. For the open task, look for a clear position, an accurately represented alternate view, and a reason that distinguishes the student's position.