Shade With Purpose

Trace how evidence narrows and expands a public-policy claim.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.5 "Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that most develops or changes the author's claim. Number the underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how the claim develops across the passage.

Why Cities Need Tree Canopies

(1) On a hot summer afternoon, a block with mature trees can feel noticeably cooler than a nearby stretch of bare pavement. That difference is more than comfort. City tree canopies can lower surface and air temperatures by shading streets and releasing water vapor through leaves. For this reason, planting and protecting trees should be part of a city's heat-safety plan. Trees cannot replace cooling centers or reliable housing, but they can reduce heat exposure where people walk, wait for buses, and live. Their benefits are especially important in neighborhoods with little shade and many heat-absorbing surfaces.

(2) Yet a citywide total of newly planted trees can hide an important question: where will those trees survive and whom will they serve? Young trees need years of watering, pruning, and protection before they provide deep shade. A plan that counts seedlings but neglects maintenance may produce impressive announcements and disappointing results. Cities should therefore map heat, existing canopy, and residents' access to parks before choosing sites. They should also fund care after planting, not only the planting event. This evidence refines the earlier claim: trees are a heat-safety tool only when long-term care and fair placement allow them to grow.

(3) Tree programs also reveal why residents must help shape public decisions. City maps and temperature data can identify urgent areas, but they do not show every daily need. A resident may know that a bus stop has no shelter, that a landlord removes saplings, or that an older neighbor avoids an unshaded sidewalk. Public meetings, paid community advisers, and clear reporting can add this local knowledge to technical data. In the end, a successful canopy plan is not simply a promise to plant more trees. It is a commitment to reduce unequal heat risks through maintenance, targeted investment, and shared decision-making.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 How does the sentence beginning "Trees cannot replace cooling centers" develop the author's claim in paragraph 1?

2 Why does paragraph 2 begin with the question about where trees will survive and whom they will serve?

3 Explain how the middle of paragraph 2 develops the author's reasoning before the final sentence refines the claim.

4 How does paragraph 3 expand the solution presented in the first two paragraphs? Use one detail from the paragraph in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences analyzing how the author develops the central claim across all three paragraphs. State the claim in your first sentence, explain how one specific sentence or detail from paragraph 2 refines it in your second sentence, and explain how paragraph 3 expands the solution in your third sentence.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that most develops or changes the author's claim. Number the underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how the claim develops across the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the sentence beginning "Trees cannot replace cooling centers" develop the author's claim in paragraph 1?	**It qualifies the claim by showing that trees are one part of a heat-safety plan, not a replacement for other essential protections.**
2	Why does paragraph 2 begin with the question about where trees will survive and whom they will serve?	**The question shifts attention from the number of trees planted to whether trees are maintained and placed fairly.**
3	Explain how the middle of paragraph 2 develops the author's reasoning before the final sentence refines the claim.	**The details about watering, pruning, protection, and neglected maintenance show why seedlings may fail to provide shade. The mapping and funding details then show what cities must do for trees to work as a heat-safety tool.**
4	How does paragraph 3 expand the solution presented in the first two paragraphs? Use one detail from the paragraph in your answer.	**It adds resident participation to planting, maintenance, and fair placement. Examples such as an unshaded bus stop show that local knowledge can identify needs that maps and temperature data may miss.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author argues that city tree canopies should be part of heat-safety planning, especially where shade is scarce. In paragraph 2, the warning that seedlings need years of care refines this idea by showing that planting alone will not reduce heat exposure. Paragraph 3 expands the solution by explaining that residents' knowledge should guide maintenance and placement.

Accept answers that accurately explain the claim's movement from tree benefits, to conditions for effective and fair tree programs, to community participation. Students may cite different relevant sentences or details if they clearly explain each portion's role in developing the claim.