City Tree Evidence

Track points, reasons, and evidence in an informational text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9b "Apply grade 4 Reading standards to informational texts (e.g., "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text")."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the author's main point. Underline each reason or fact that supports it, and number the three different benefits in the order they appear.

Why Cities Need Trees

1 City planners should protect and plant trees along streets and near schools. Trees do more than make a neighborhood look pleasant. Their leaves provide shade, which can keep sidewalks, playgrounds, and buildings cooler on hot days. In places with many paved surfaces, shade matters because pavement absorbs sunlight and releases heat. For this reason, trees can help cities feel more comfortable in summer.

2 Trees also help manage rainwater. When rain hits bare pavement, it may rush into storm drains quickly and can contribute to flooding. Tree leaves and branches catch some rain first, and roots help water soak into soil. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that trees can reduce stormwater runoff. This evidence supports the point that planting trees can help neighborhoods handle heavy rain.

3 Finally, trees can improve air quality, although they do not remove all pollution. Leaves take in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, and they can trap some tiny particles from the air. These facts support the idea that trees offer health benefits. Together, the reasons about shade, rainwater, and air show why city tree programs are worth supporting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What main point does the author support throughout the passage? Give one reason the author gives.

2. Which evidence does the author use to support the point that trees help neighborhoods handle heavy rain?

3. What facts in paragraph 3 support the idea that trees offer health benefits? Explain how the facts support that idea.

4. How do the author's three reasons work together to support city tree programs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an improvement your school could make. In sentence 1, state a point. In sentences 2 and 3, give a different reason and a fact or example that supports each reason.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · W.4.9b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the author's main point. Underline each reason or fact that supports it, and number the three different benefits in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main point does the author support throughout the passage? Give one reason the author gives.	**The author supports protecting and planting city trees. One reason is that trees provide shade that helps keep places cooler.**
2	Which evidence does the author use to support the point that trees help neighborhoods handle heavy rain?	**Leaves and branches catch some rain, roots help water soak into soil, and the EPA says trees can reduce stormwater runoff.**
3	What facts in paragraph 3 support the idea that trees offer health benefits? Explain how the facts support that idea.	**Leaves take in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and can trap tiny particles from the air. These facts show that trees can help improve air quality.**
4	How do the author's three reasons work together to support city tree programs?	**The reasons show that trees can cool hot places, reduce rainwater runoff, and improve air quality. Together, these benefits support planting and protecting trees in cities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack. It would keep bicycle seats and handlebars dry in rainy weather, which could make riding to school more comfortable. It would also give bicycles a set place instead of leaving them near walkways, where they can block people.

Accept answers that identify the author's point and connect accurate reasons or evidence from the passage to that point. For the writing task, accept a clear point plus two different reasons, each supported by a relevant fact or example.