Transition Trail

Read a model explanation and trace how transitions connect its ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2c "Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each transition word or phrase, number them in order, and label each one as addition, contrast, cause/effect, example, condition, or time.

Planning for City Trees

1 City trees do more than make streets look inviting. Their leaves catch some rain before it reaches pavement, so less water rushes into storm drains. In summer, shade from a mature tree can lower the temperature of a sidewalk and nearby building. Trees also provide nesting places and food for birds and insects. Because these benefits happen in busy neighborhoods, many cities study where tree cover is thin and plan new plantings there first each year.

2 However, planting a tree is only the beginning. Young trees need water while their roots spread through the soil, especially during dry weeks. They may also need guards that protect their trunks from lawn equipment or animals. In addition, workers check whether a tree has enough space for roots and branches as it grows. If a tree dies, the city loses the shade and rain control it expected. Therefore, a planting plan must include years of care, not just one day of digging.

3 Residents can help these plans succeed. For example, neighbors can report a broken branch or an empty watering bag through a city hotline. They can also learn which species fit the local climate and available space. Meanwhile, schools can map the trees around their grounds and share the results with local planners. This information shows where students have little shade during recess. As a result, planners can compare community reports with their own maps and choose places where new trees may help most.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The word "However" begins paragraph 2. What relationship does it show between paragraph 1 and paragraph 2?

2. Which transition phrase introduces a specific way residents can help, and what does that phrase signal?

3. How do "In addition" and "Therefore" work together in paragraph 2?

4. What cause-and-effect relationship does "As a result" clarify in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining how a school can reduce cafeteria waste. Use an addition transition and a contrast or condition transition in sentence 2, then use a result transition in sentence 3.

ANSWER KEY

Transition Trail

GRADE 7 · W.7.2c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each transition word or phrase, number them in order, and label each one as addition, contrast, cause/effect, example, condition, or time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The word "However" begins paragraph 2. What relationship does it show between paragraph 1 and paragraph 2?	**It shows a contrast between the benefits trees provide and the care trees need after they are planted.**
2	Which transition phrase introduces a specific way residents can help, and what does that phrase signal?	**"For example" introduces the way neighbors can report a problem, and it signals a specific example.**
3	How do "In addition" and "Therefore" work together in paragraph 2?	**"In addition" adds another need for young trees, while "Therefore" signals the conclusion that planting plans need long-term care.**
4	What cause-and-effect relationship does "As a result" clarify in paragraph 3?	**Community reports and school maps give planners information, so planners can choose places where new trees may help most.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students can place fruit peels and napkins in a compost bin. In addition, they can sort bottles for recycling, but clear labels are needed to prevent mistakes. As a result, the school can send less cafeteria waste to a landfill.

Accept correctly labeled transitions when students explain the relationship each one creates. For Part 3, accept varied solutions if the response has exactly three sentences and uses transitions for addition, contrast or condition, and result.