

Bridging City Ideas

Study how transitions connect complex ideas in an explanatory model.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2c "Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every transition word or phrase in the passage. In the margin, label the relationship each one creates, such as cause and effect, contrast, example, addition, or conclusion.

Why Cities Stay Hot

- ① On a hot July afternoon, pavement in a city can be far warmer than shaded ground outside town. This pattern, called the urban heat island effect, develops when dark roofs and roads absorb sunlight and release heat slowly. At the same time, buildings and vehicles add warmth while fewer trees provide shade or cooling through evaporation. As a result, neighborhoods with dense construction often stay hot after sunset, increasing discomfort and health risks for residents without reliable air conditioning during heat waves and power outages.
- ② Researchers measure this effect with street-level sensors, satellite images, and local temperature records. For example, satellite maps can show that areas with little tree cover often have hotter surfaces than nearby parks. However, surface temperature alone does not reveal every resident's experience. Humidity, housing quality, access to cooling, and work conditions can change how dangerous heat becomes. Therefore, city planners must combine measurements with community reports before deciding where to plant trees, repair homes, or open cooling centers during summer emergencies for nearby residents first.
- ③ These findings point to several connected solutions. First, planting and protecting trees can shade sidewalks and lower nearby air temperatures. In addition, light-colored roofs reflect more sunlight than dark roofs, reducing building heat gain. Yet physical changes work best with social planning. For instance, cities can extend library hours during heat emergencies and share alerts in multiple languages. Meanwhile, utility programs can help households pay for efficient cooling, so lower-income residents are not excluded. Ultimately, a heat plan is strongest when it links cooler spaces, public information, and affordable protection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What relationship does the phrase “As a result” create in paragraph 1?

2 Why does the writer use “However” after the example about satellite maps in paragraph 2?

3 Find two transitions in paragraph 3 that introduce either another solution or an example. What does each transition do?

4 How does “Therefore” connect the ideas before and after it in paragraph 2?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-paragraph, 180-220-word explanatory model about reducing plastic waste at school. Explain a cause, examine a complication or evidence, and propose connected solutions. Use at least five varied transitions, including one that signals contrast and one that signals cause and effect. Underline each transition.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every transition word or phrase in the passage. In the margin, label the relationship each one creates, such as cause and effect, contrast, example, addition, or conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What relationship does the phrase “As a result” create in paragraph 1?	It shows that heat absorbed by city materials and reduced tree cover cause neighborhoods to remain hot and increase health risks.
2	Why does the writer use “However” after the example about satellite maps in paragraph 2?	It contrasts the useful information from satellite maps with the limitation that surface temperature does not show every resident's experience.
3	Find two transitions in paragraph 3 that introduce either another solution or an example. What does each transition do?	“In addition” adds another physical solution, and “For instance” introduces a specific example of social planning. Other correct choices include “First” for the first solution or “Meanwhile” for a related solution happening alongside others.
4	How does “Therefore” connect the ideas before and after it in paragraph 2?	It shows that because heat risk depends on measurements and community conditions, planners should use both kinds of information when making decisions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Disposable plastic piles up at school because many lunches arrive in single-use wrappers, bottles, and utensils. As a result, custodians collect large bags of trash after lunch, and the cafeteria spends money on supplies that are used once. Students may want convenient choices, but convenience can hide the cost of producing and discarding plastic. However, banning every plastic item at once could create problems. Some students need sealed food packages for safety or depend on inexpensive bottled drinks when water fountains are unavailable. Therefore, the school should first learn which items fill the most bins and ask students which replacements they could realistically use. This evidence can prevent a rule that shifts costs to families or leaves students without needed options. For example, the cafeteria could offer washable utensils and place clearly labeled bins beside lunch lines. In addition, water bottle filling stations and reusable bottle loans would give students alternatives to bottled drinks. Meanwhile, a student team could report monthly trash totals, helping the school adjust its plan. Ultimately, reducing plastic will require both practical equipment and policies that respect students' different needs.

Accept labels that accurately describe a transition's relationship, even when students use equivalent terms such as result for cause and effect. For the open task, accept varied logical transitions that clearly connect the three sections, not merely a list of transition words.