Beyond the Last Fact

Trace how a conclusion turns evidence into significance.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2e "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation provided (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence in the final paragraph that helps conclude the explanation. In the margin, number the earlier paragraph idea that each underlined sentence uses or extends.

Trees and City Heat

1. On summer afternoons, pavement and roofs absorb sunlight, then release heat slowly after sunset. This effect makes densely built neighborhoods warmer than nearby parks or rural areas, a pattern known as the urban heat island effect. Trees can reduce that heat in two ways. Their leaves shade surfaces that would otherwise absorb solar energy, and water evaporating from leaves cools the surrounding air. Because shade is not spread evenly, streets with few trees can expose residents to higher temperatures during heat waves and raise the need for air conditioning.

2. City planners use temperature maps to locate blocks where heat risk is greatest. Satellite images can show surface temperatures across large areas, while sensors at street level record the air people actually experience. These measurements often reveal sharp differences between shaded and unshaded blocks. Planners also compare tree canopy, pavement, household income, and access to air conditioning. That comparison matters because heat harms are not shared equally. Older adults, outdoor workers, and people without reliable cooling may face greater danger during extreme heat. Maps can help cities place trees, cooling centers, and reflective roofs where they may protect more people.

3. Planting trees will not eliminate every danger from extreme heat. Young trees need water and years of growth before they provide broad shade, and cooling centers remain essential during emergencies. Still, the evidence about shade, evaporative cooling, and unequal exposure gives cities a practical reason to protect mature trees and expand canopy where heat is most severe. Treating urban trees as public health infrastructure can shape fairer budgets, safer streets, and more resilient neighborhoods as heat waves become more frequent and intense in many regions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What limitation does the conclusion acknowledge before making its main claim? Why does including this limitation strengthen the conclusion?

2. Name two earlier ideas that the final paragraph uses to support protecting mature trees and expanding tree canopy.

3. What specific city action does the conclusion support, and where should that action be focused?

4. What broader significance does the final sentence give to urban trees?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school or community issue you can explain. Write a three- or four-sentence concluding section that refers to at least two details from your explanation, acknowledges one limit, and states a specific implication or next step.

Beyond the Last Fact

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence in the final paragraph that helps conclude the explanation. In the margin, number the earlier paragraph idea that each underlined sentence uses or extends. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What limitation does the conclusion acknowledge before making its main claim? Why does including this limitation strengthen the conclusion?	**It acknowledges that trees cannot remove every heat danger, and that young trees need water and time to provide shade. This makes the conclusion more credible because it recognizes limits while supporting tree planting.**
2	Name two earlier ideas that the final paragraph uses to support protecting mature trees and expanding tree canopy.	**It uses the ideas that trees cool areas through shade and evaporation, and that heat exposure is unequal across neighborhoods and groups of residents.**
3	What specific city action does the conclusion support, and where should that action be focused?	**Cities should protect mature trees and expand tree canopy, especially where heat is most severe.**
4	What broader significance does the final sentence give to urban trees?	**It presents urban trees as public health infrastructure that can lead to fairer budgets, safer streets, and more resilient neighborhoods during increasingly frequent and intense heat waves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because refill stations reduce the need for single-use bottles and give students easy access to water during the day, adding them near the gym and cafeteria would support both waste reduction and student health. Stations would require cleaning and occasional filter replacement, so the school would need a maintenance plan. Even with that cost, tracking bottle use and repair needs could help the school decide whether to add stations in other high-traffic areas.

Accept responses that identify how the final paragraph qualifies its claim, draws on earlier evidence, and explains why the topic matters. For the open response, accept varied topics if the conclusion includes two relevant details, a genuine limitation, and a logical implication or next step.