

Lights, Flight, Logic

Analyze how an informational text builds a practical claim.

ELA.11.R.2.1 "Evaluate the structure(s) and features in texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that signal a shift in the text's organization, circle three evidence or qualifying details, and number the paragraph roles in the order they develop the writer's message.

When City Lights Meet Migration

- ① Each spring and fall, billions of birds migrate across North America at night. Many navigate with stars, Earth's magnetic field, and familiar landscape patterns. In cities, however, brightly lit office towers can disrupt that journey. Birds may circle illuminated buildings, collide with glass, or land exhausted on streets below. The danger increases during low clouds or fog, when light reflects through the sky and draws birds closer. This problem is not limited to rare species. Warblers, thrushes, and sparrows, birds people may see in neighborhood trees, can all be affected.
- ② Research helps explain why a small change can matter. A 2014 study estimated that collisions with buildings kill between 365 million and 988 million birds in the United States each year, although not every collision involves light. To isolate lighting's role, researchers compare similar buildings on nights with different lighting patterns. They also use weather radar and migration forecasts to identify evenings when many birds are moving overhead. Together, these methods show why a route can become more hazardous when lights remain on.
- ③ Because the threat has a clear trigger, responses can be targeted. During peak migration nights, some building managers turn off unnecessary interior and decorative lights after business hours. Programs often called Lights Out pair this step with public migration alerts, so participants know when it matters most. The approach does not eliminate every collision, since glass, weather, and building design also affect birds. Still, reducing unnecessary light can lower one part of the risk. The practice gives institutions and residents a practical step, even while longer-term changes to glass and building design remain important.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What overall organizational structure does the passage use? Explain how the order of the paragraphs helps develop the writer's message.

2 How does the numerical estimate in paragraph 2 function as a text feature? Why does the phrase "although not every collision involves light" strengthen the passage?

3 Why does the writer include information about weather radar and migration forecasts before describing Lights Out programs?

4 Evaluate the effect of the sentence explaining that Lights Out does not eliminate every collision. How does this concession shape the final paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In 75 to 90 words, propose either a different order for the passage's three paragraphs or one feature to add, such as a diagram, chart, or heading. Use at least two details from the passage and evaluate whether your change would strengthen or weaken readers' understanding.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that signal a shift in the text's organization, circle three evidence or qualifying details, and number the paragraph roles in the order they develop the writer's message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What overall organizational structure does the passage use? Explain how the order of the paragraphs helps develop the writer's message.	It moves from the migration problem, to research evidence, to a targeted response with limits. This order helps readers understand the risk before considering an action.
2	How does the numerical estimate in paragraph 2 function as a text feature? Why does the phrase "although not every collision involves light" strengthen the passage?	The estimate shows the large scale of building collisions. The qualification limits the claim accurately and makes the writer seem credible.
3	Why does the writer include information about weather radar and migration forecasts before describing Lights Out programs?	The information shows how people can identify high-migration nights, which explains why alerts and temporary light reductions can be targeted.
4	Evaluate the effect of the sentence explaining that Lights Out does not eliminate every collision. How does this concession shape the final paragraph?	It acknowledges other causes, such as glass, weather, and building design. This balanced limitation makes the proposed action more credible.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Keeping the current order is stronger than opening with the Lights Out response. The first paragraph establishes the nighttime hazard, and the second supplies a national collision estimate plus methods for studying lighting. Those details prepare readers to see why migration alerts and reduced lighting are sensible, targeted actions. I would add a small diagram after paragraph two showing the link from cloudy skies and bright buildings to disoriented birds. That feature could clarify the cause without interrupting the problem-evidence-response progression.

Accept any accurate identification and evaluation of the passage's problem, evidence, and response structure. For Part 3, accept responses of 75 to 90 words that propose a defensible structural or text-feature change, use at least two passage details, and explain the change's effect.