

Heat Plan Under Review

Analyze evidence, language, and reasoning in an informational proposal.

ELA.11.R.2 “Reading Informational Text”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence that states the report’s central claim, number three details used as evidence, and circle two phrases chosen to influence readers. These marks will help you evaluate how the report builds support for its proposal.

A Proposal for Cooler Streets

- ① On summer afternoons, neighborhoods with few trees can remain noticeably warmer than nearby parks or shaded streets. Dark roofs and pavement absorb solar energy, then release heat after sunset, a pattern known as the urban heat island effect. In response, the Riverton Planning Office has proposed planting 2,000 street trees over five years, concentrating first on blocks where satellite temperature maps show the highest surface temperatures. Its report argues that trees are not merely decorative. By shading sidewalks and buildings and cooling air through evaporation from leaves, they can reduce residents’ exposure to dangerous heat.
- ② To support the proposal, the report combines local measurements with broader research. City sensors recorded afternoon air temperatures on 18 unshaded blocks and 18 heavily shaded blocks during July 2025. The shaded blocks averaged 3.1 degrees Fahrenheit cooler at the sensor sites. The report also cites the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which explains that trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and evapotranspiration. This evidence gives the plan a practical basis, but it does not prove that every planted tree will produce the same result. Tree species, watering, building height, and time required for canopy growth can affect cooling.
- ③ Still, the report uses more than data to shape readers’ response. It opens with the image of children waiting for buses beside “heat-radiating asphalt” and calls tree planting “a shield for the city’s most vulnerable residents.” Such phrasing may make parents and council members feel urgency, especially because low-income neighborhoods often have less tree cover and may face greater heat exposure. The language supports the report’s purpose of winning approval, yet readers should separate its emotional appeal from its measured findings. Before funding the plan, council members could ask how survival rates will be tracked and whether residents helped choose planting locations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the report's central claim about the proposed tree-planting plan?

2 Give one local measurement from the report and explain how it supports the proposal.

3 How does the phrase "heat-radiating asphalt" affect readers, and why does the report use it?

4 Name one factor that could limit the cooling from newly planted trees. Then name one question council members should ask before funding the plan.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a public message about a school or community issue, such as a poster, announcement, article, or speech. In 80 to 100 words, evaluate its claim by identifying one evidence type, one rhetorical choice and likely effect, and one question a careful reader should ask before accepting it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence that states the report's central claim, number three details used as evidence, and circle two phrases chosen to influence readers. These marks will help you evaluate how the report builds support for its proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the report's central claim about the proposed tree-planting plan?	Planting street trees can reduce residents' exposure to dangerous heat, so the city should support the plan.
2	Give one local measurement from the report and explain how it supports the proposal.	The shaded blocks averaged 3.1 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded blocks. This supports the idea that tree shade can help cool neighborhoods.
3	How does the phrase "heat-radiating asphalt" affect readers, and why does the report use it?	It makes the heat seem vivid and threatening, helping create urgency and persuade readers to approve the plan.
4	Name one factor that could limit the cooling from newly planted trees. Then name one question council members should ask before funding the plan.	Cooling can vary because of tree species, watering, building height, or time needed for canopy growth. Council members could ask how tree survival rates will be tracked or whether residents helped choose locations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a district announcement, officials claim that later school start times will improve attendance. They support the claim by citing a pilot at one high school, where absences fell during the spring term. This local example is relevant, but I would ask whether course schedules, weather, or new attendance rules also changed. The phrase "students deserve mornings that work with their biology" appeals to fairness and concern for teenagers. It may persuade families, yet the announcement should also compare results from more than one school before the district changes every schedule.

Accept equivalent statements of the central claim and any accurately cited evidence or rhetorical phrase from the passage. For the open response, accept varied topics if the student evaluates a claim with evidence, rhetoric, likely effect, and a relevant evaluative question.