

Light With Purpose

Evaluate how an informational author builds support for a practical change.

ELA.12.R.2.3 "Evaluate an author's choices in establishing and achieving purpose(s)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that supports the author's purpose, circle one phrase that shows the author's attitude, and number the paragraphs 1-3 to trace how the purpose develops.

A Night Worth Keeping

- ① On a clear night, the Milky Way can look like a pale river across the sky. Yet many people now live beneath a glow that hides all but the brightest stars. This is not only a loss for stargazers. Excess outdoor light can shine into bedroom windows, interrupting sleep, and it can waste electricity when lamps illuminate empty sidewalks or the sky. As cities replace old fixtures, they have an opportunity to aim light where it is needed, rather than scattering it everywhere.
- ② The issue also reaches beyond human neighborhoods. Many migratory birds use celestial cues, and bright nighttime lighting can draw them off course or toward dangerous buildings. Insects gather around some lamps, changing where they feed and where bats hunt. These effects do not mean that towns should switch off every streetlight. Well-designed lighting can improve visibility near crosswalks and entrances. The better question is whether each fixture sends a useful beam downward, uses only as much brightness as needed, and turns off when no one is there.
- ③ Several communities have adopted shields that block upward glare, warmer-colored bulbs that contain less blue light, and timers or motion sensors for places that are not used all night. These choices show that dark-sky planning is not a return to unlit roads. It is a way to match light with its job. Residents can ask local officials to review lighting near parks, rivers, and homes. When a lamp is aimed carefully, a safer path and a visible night sky do not have to compete with each other.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What is the author's main purpose? Identify one choice in paragraph 1 that begins to achieve that purpose.

- 2 How does the author's discussion of birds, insects, and bats in paragraph 2 help achieve the purpose?

- 3 Why does the author state that towns should not "switch off every streetlight"? Evaluate how this choice affects the argument.

- 4 How does the final sentence help the author achieve the purpose?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 90–110 word, three-paragraph mini-article that argues for one practical improvement in your school or community. Use a concrete opening, acknowledge one limitation or concern, and end with a specific action. After it, write one sentence explaining how two of your choices help achieve your purpose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that supports the author's purpose, circle one phrase that shows the author's attitude, and number the paragraphs 1-3 to trace how the purpose develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main purpose? Identify one choice in paragraph 1 that begins to achieve that purpose.	The author aims to persuade readers to support better-directed outdoor lighting. The opening contrast between the Milky Way and city glow makes the loss concrete, while the sleep and energy examples show practical harms.
2	How does the author's discussion of birds, insects, and bats in paragraph 2 help achieve the purpose?	It broadens the issue from human comfort and wasted energy to effects on wildlife, giving readers more reasons to support lighting changes.
3	Why does the author state that towns should not "switch off every streetlight"? Evaluate how this choice affects the argument.	The statement acknowledges a safety concern and makes the argument more balanced. It clarifies that the goal is effective lighting, not darkness everywhere.
4	How does the final sentence help the author achieve the purpose?	Its contrast between a safer path and a visible night sky answers the possible claim that safety and dark skies conflict. It leaves readers with a practical, hopeful resolution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At many bus stops, summer heat turns a short wait into a health risk. A small shade structure can lower direct sun exposure and give riders a place to rest while they wait. Shade will not solve late buses or replace air-conditioned shelters. Still, trees, canopies, and benches can make transit more usable, especially for older adults and people carrying children or groceries. Transit agencies should map stops with no shade and begin where ridership and heat are highest. A visible, modest improvement tells riders that public transportation is designed for the people who depend on it. The concrete heat image creates concern, while the concession about late buses makes the proposal seem practical and focused.

Accept equivalent statements of the purpose if students explain how a specific author choice helps achieve it. For the open task, look for a clear purpose, purposeful choices, and a reasonable explanation that connects those choices to the intended effect on readers.