Trees Make a Case

Track claims, reasons, and evidence in an opinion article.

ELA.4.R.2.4 "Explain an author's claim and the reasons and evidence used to support the claim."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim. Circle each reason that supports it, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside details that give evidence for each reason.

More Trees for Our Town

1 Our town should plant more shade trees near sidewalks, bus stops, and playgrounds. Trees make outdoor places safer and more comfortable on hot days. Their leaves block some sunlight, so pavement and play equipment do not heat up as quickly. A shaded bus stop can also give riders a cooler place to wait during summer afternoons.

2 More trees can also help people breathe cleaner air. Tree leaves catch some tiny particles that blow through the air, including dust and soot. Trees take in carbon dioxide, a gas released when fuels burn, and give off oxygen. One tree cannot clean an entire neighborhood, but many healthy trees can help make the air around busy streets cleaner.

3 Finally, trees help towns handle rainstorms. When rain falls on bare pavement, it rushes into drains and can carry litter into streams. Tree roots hold soil in place, and the ground around trees can soak up water. Planting and caring for trees costs money, but the cooler spaces, cleaner air, and better rain control make them a smart choice for our town.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's claim?

2. What reason does the author give for planting trees near places where people spend time outside? Include one supporting detail.

3. What evidence does the author use to support the reason that trees can improve air quality?

4. What concern about planting trees does the author admit? How does the author explain why trees are still a smart choice?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change your school could make. Write exactly three sentences: state a claim in the first sentence, then give two reasons that each include a fact or example as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

Trees Make a Case

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.R.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim. Circle each reason that supports it, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside details that give evidence for each reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's claim?	**Our town should plant more shade trees near sidewalks, bus stops, and playgrounds.**
2	What reason does the author give for planting trees near places where people spend time outside? Include one supporting detail.	**Trees make outdoor places cooler and safer on hot days. Their leaves block some sunlight, so pavement and play equipment do not heat up as quickly.**
3	What evidence does the author use to support the reason that trees can improve air quality?	**Tree leaves catch tiny particles such as dust and soot, and trees take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen.**
4	What concern about planting trees does the author admit? How does the author explain why trees are still a smart choice?	**Planting and caring for trees costs money. The author says the cooler spaces, cleaner air, and better rain control are worth the cost.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add bottle-filling stations. They could reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles thrown away because students could refill reusable bottles during the day. They would also make drinking water easier to get after recess, when many students are thirsty.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, reasons, and evidence if it matches the passage. For the open response, accept a clear school-related claim and two distinct reasons, each supported by a specific fact or example.