Shade Starts Now

Trace how facts and word choices reveal a viewpoint.

ELA.5.R.2.3 "Analyze an author's purpose and/or perspective in an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that show the author's opinion or recommendation. Circle facts or reasons that support those ideas so you can identify the author's purpose and perspective.

A Cooler Town Starts with Trees

1. On hot afternoons, trees can make a neighborhood feel cooler. Their leaves block some sunlight from sidewalks and buildings. Through transpiration, trees release water vapor, which can help cool the air nearby. Shade also protects playground surfaces from becoming as hot. For these reasons, planting trees is a practical way for a town to prepare for warmer summer days.

2. Some towns worry that young trees cost money to buy and care for. That concern is real, because new trees need water, mulch, and pruning. However, a town can choose hardy native species and organize volunteers to help during the first years. This planning makes tree planting a sensible investment, not a decoration that can wait until later.

3. Town leaders should include tree planting in street and park projects. A tree planted today may take years to grow a broad canopy, so waiting limits the shade future residents will have. Residents can ask where trees are planned, help care for new plantings, and support budgets for them. Small actions now can build cooler, more comfortable public spaces over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main purpose for writing this passage? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.

2. What perspective does the author have about planting trees in towns?

3. How does the phrase "a sensible investment, not a decoration" reveal the author's perspective?

4. How does paragraph 2 help the author accomplish the purpose of the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences analyzing the author's purpose and perspective. Name the purpose, state the author's view, and explain how two details from different paragraphs help communicate that view.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that show the author's opinion or recommendation. Circle facts or reasons that support those ideas so you can identify the author's purpose and perspective. 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 for writing this passage? Use one detail from the passage in your answer.	**The author's main purpose is to persuade town leaders and residents to plant and care for trees. The author recommends that leaders include tree planting in street and park projects.**
2	What perspective does the author have about planting trees in towns?	**The author believes tree planting is a practical, worthwhile long-term investment that towns should prioritize.**
3	How does the phrase "a sensible investment, not a decoration" reveal the author's perspective?	**It shows that the author thinks trees are important and useful, not an optional extra.**
4	How does paragraph 2 help the author accomplish the purpose of the passage?	**It admits that young trees need money and care, then gives solutions, making the author's argument seem realistic and reasonable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author's purpose is to persuade town leaders and residents to plant and care for trees. The author views tree planting as a sensible, long-term investment rather than an optional decoration. Information about cooler air and the years needed for a canopy supports the message that the town should act now.

Accept responses that identify persuasion as the main purpose, though students may also note that the author uses information to support that purpose. Accept evidence-based explanations showing that the author supports planting trees now for cooler public spaces in the future.