

Shade Makes Sense

Study how a writer builds a supported school claim.

ELA.6.C.1.3 "Write and support a claim using logical reasoning, relevant evidence from sources, elaboration, and a logical organizational structure with varied transitions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim, circle each source-based fact, and number the transition words that move the argument forward.

A Cooler Playground Space

- ① Our school should add a covered shade area beside the playground. At lunch and recess, students often wait or eat in direct sun because the few trees do not shade the tables. A shade structure would give students a cooler place to sit, talk, and prepare for class. It would also make the outdoor area more useful during hot months. This change is practical because it protects students while improving a space the school already owns.
- ② According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, shade can reduce exposure to ultraviolet, or UV, radiation. UV radiation from the sun can damage skin and eyes. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. A covered area would not block every ray of sunlight, so students should still use other protections, such as sunscreen. However, adding shade would reduce one important source of exposure during daily outdoor time.
- ③ Some people may worry that a shade structure would cost too much. Before building anything, the school could ask students and families where shade is needed most. Then leaders could compare prices, choose a durable design, and place it near the tables. Although the project would cost money, the structure could serve many students for years. For example, classes could meet outside when the area is not used for lunch. Therefore, a shaded space is not only a health choice, it is a smart improvement that supports learning and daily comfort.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What claim does the writer make about the playground area?

2 Identify two source-based facts that support the writer's claim. Include the source for each fact.

3 How does the word "However" help the writer's reasoning in paragraph 2?

4 What job does paragraph 3 do in the argument? Name one transition from that paragraph that helps organize the writer's ideas.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a school improvement different from shade structures. Write two paragraphs, 120 to 160 words, that state a claim, use evidence from two reliable sources, explain how the evidence supports your claim, and use at least three varied transitions.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim, circle each source-based fact, and number the transition words that move the argument forward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the writer make about the playground area?	The school should add a covered shade area beside the playground.
2	Identify two source-based facts that support the writer's claim. Include the source for each fact.	The EPA says shade can reduce exposure to UV radiation. The CDC says skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States.
3	How does the word "However" help the writer's reasoning in paragraph 2?	It admits that shade cannot block all sunlight, then shows that shade still reduces an important source of UV exposure.
4	What job does paragraph 3 do in the argument? Name one transition from that paragraph that helps organize the writer's ideas.	It addresses the cost concern and gives a practical plan and added benefit. Accept transitions such as Before, Then, Although, For example, or Therefore.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install water bottle filling stations in the cafeteria and near the gym. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that drinking water is an important part of a healthy diet. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that water has no added sugars or calories. These facts matter because students often need a drink after exercise, at lunch, or between classes. Easy access would help students choose water when they are thirsty. However, fountains with low spouts can be awkward for filling bottles, especially during a short passing period. Filling stations are designed to refill bottles quickly. In addition, the school could place signs nearby that show where students can refill. Therefore, adding stations would give students a practical way to drink water throughout the day and support healthier drink choices.

Accept equivalent wording when students accurately identify the claim, evidence, reasoning, and transitions. For the writing task, look for a clear claim, two credible sources with relevant evidence, explanation, logical paragraph order, and three or more varied transitions.