The Shade Case

Read an argument and trace how each reason builds the claim.

ELA.6.R.2.4 "Track the development of an argument, identifying the types of reasoning used."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main claim, circle each sentence that supports it, and write E for evidence, C for cause and effect, or P for comparison beside each circle. Box any concern the author raises before responding to it, then number the claim and the two main reasons 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear.

A Cooler Playground

(1) Riverside Middle School should add shade structures above its main playground. At lunch, students use the blacktop for basketball, walking, and clubs, even on hot days. The Environmental Protection Agency explains that shade can protect people from ultraviolet rays when they are outdoors. Teachers have also noticed that the metal bleachers and rails become too hot to touch in direct sun. These facts show that the current playground leaves students exposed during a busy part of the school day.

(2) Shade would improve safety through a clear chain of cause and effect. When direct sunlight hits dark pavement, the surface absorbs energy and grows hotter. A canopy blocks some sunlight, so the pavement, equipment, and nearby air can be less hot. Cooler spaces can help students avoid burns from surfaces and can make active play more comfortable. The school already tells students to drink water on hot days. Adding shade would support that rule by reducing one source of heat before students begin playing.

(3) Some people may say that the money for a shade structure should be spent on other needs. That concern matters, because a school budget is limited. However, the choice is not simply shade or learning supplies. A shade structure would serve every student who uses the playground over many years. Compared with a purchase that helps only one room, a shared outdoor space could benefit many classes, teams, and clubs. For these reasons, the school should ask families, staff, and students to help plan a shaded playground.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim? Give one piece of evidence from paragraph 1 that supports it.

2. What type of reasoning does paragraph 2 use most? Explain the chain of ideas in that reasoning.

3. What concern does the author address in paragraph 3? How does the author respond, and what type of reasoning is used?

4. How does the argument develop from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences that argue for one improvement at your school. State a claim, include a fact or observation as evidence, use cause-and-effect or comparison reasoning, and respond to one possible concern.

ANSWER KEY

The Shade Case

GRADE 6 · ELA.6.R.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim, circle each sentence that supports it, and write E for evidence, C for cause and effect, or P for comparison beside each circle. Box any concern the author raises before responding to it, then number the claim and the two main reasons 1, 2, and 3 in the order they appear. 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 claim? Give one piece of evidence from paragraph 1 that supports it.	**The school should add shade structures above the main playground. Supporting evidence includes the EPA information about shade and ultraviolet rays or the observation that metal bleachers and rails become too hot to touch.**
2	What type of reasoning does paragraph 2 use most? Explain the chain of ideas in that reasoning.	**Paragraph 2 uses cause-and-effect reasoning. A canopy blocks sunlight, which can make surfaces and nearby air less hot, helping students avoid burns and play more comfortably.**
3	What concern does the author address in paragraph 3? How does the author respond, and what type of reasoning is used?	**The concern is that the money should be spent on other needs. The author responds that a shade structure could serve many students, classes, teams, and clubs over many years. The response uses comparison reasoning.**
4	How does the argument develop from paragraph 1 to paragraph 3?	**Paragraph 1 states the claim and gives evidence of the problem. Paragraph 2 adds a cause-and-effect reason about safety and comfort. Paragraph 3 addresses a budget concern, uses a comparison, and ends by calling for a plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a water refill station near the gym. The gym is used by teams and physical education classes every day, so many students need water after activity. If students can refill bottles quickly, they may drink water instead of leaving the area to search for a fountain. Although a station costs money, it could reduce the need to buy bottled water for school events.

Accept equivalent descriptions of evidence-based, cause-and-effect, and comparison reasoning when students support their answers with passage details. For the open response, accept any school-focused argument with all four required parts and a logical sequence.