Cooling City Plans

Trace how a writer combines sources into a clear recommendation.

ELA.7.C.1.4 "Write expository texts to explain and analyze information from multiple sources, using relevant supporting details and a logical organizational pattern."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim in each paragraph, circle the names of sources, and number the details that explain how the sources support the final recommendation. These marks will show how the writer builds an explanation from multiple sources.

How Trees Can Cool a City

1 Cities can become much hotter than nearby rural areas because pavement and roofs absorb sunlight. Planting trees is one way communities can reduce this heat. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that trees cool places by shading surfaces and releasing water vapor through their leaves. The U.S. Forest Service also notes that tree canopies can reduce the energy buildings need for air conditioning. Together, these sources show that trees affect both outdoor temperatures and indoor comfort.

2 Research helps explain why location matters. In city neighborhoods, areas with more tree cover are generally cooler than areas dominated by pavement. The Forest Service focuses on tree canopy, while the Environmental Protection Agency also describes cool roofs and lighter pavement as ways to lower heat. This comparison matters because the Forest Service explains a nature-based choice, and the EPA places that choice beside several community actions. Planners can use both sources when choosing the best mix of solutions for city plans.

3 City leaders must decide where to plant limited numbers of trees. A neighborhood with few trees, many dark parking lots, and bus stops without shade may need them first. Yet leaders should also ask residents which streets feel unsafe or difficult to walk during hot weather. The Forest Service source supports planting trees for energy savings, and the EPA source supports combining trees with other cooling steps. Therefore, a fair plan would use temperature data and resident observations to choose planting sites.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contribute to the explanation in paragraph 1, and what does the U.S. Forest Service contribute?

2. How does paragraph 2 compare the information from the two sources?

3. Which two kinds of evidence does paragraph 3 say leaders should use when choosing planting sites?

4. What is the final recommendation, and how do both sources help support it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use both source notes below to write one 90-110 word explanatory paragraph about a school heat plan. State one main idea, use at least one detail from each source, organize your ideas logically, and name Source A and Source B. Source A, Environmental Protection Agency: Cool roofs reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than standard roofs. Source B, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: During extreme heat, people should drink water and seek air-conditioned places.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · ELA.7.C.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim in each paragraph, circle the names of sources, and number the details that explain how the sources support the final recommendation. These marks will show how the writer builds an explanation from multiple sources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contribute to the explanation in paragraph 1, and what does the U.S. Forest Service contribute?	**The EPA explains that trees cool areas through shade and water vapor. The Forest Service explains that tree canopies can reduce air-conditioning energy use.**
2	How does paragraph 2 compare the information from the two sources?	**It contrasts the Forest Service focus on tree canopy with the EPA description of trees, cool roofs, and lighter pavement as heat-reducing choices.**
3	Which two kinds of evidence does paragraph 3 say leaders should use when choosing planting sites?	**Leaders should use temperature data and resident observations about streets that are unsafe or difficult to walk in hot weather.**
4	What is the final recommendation, and how do both sources help support it?	**The writer recommends using temperature data and resident observations to choose sites. The Forest Service supports tree planting for energy savings, and the EPA supports using trees with other cooling steps.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school can prepare for very hot days by protecting students indoors and outdoors. Source A, the Environmental Protection Agency, explains that cool roofs reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than standard roofs. If the school replaces an aging roof, a cool roof could help keep the building from heating up as quickly. Source B, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, advises people to drink water and seek air-conditioned places during extreme heat. Therefore, the school should provide water breaks, move strenuous activities indoors, and consider a cool roof as a long-term improvement for future summers.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately distinguish the sources and connect details to the recommendation. For the open response, require 90-110 words, a logical structure, and accurate use of a detail from each source.