Shade Makes Sense

Analyze how a writer supports a claim with reasons and evidence.

ELA.7.C.1 "Communicating Through Writing"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the author's claim, number the two main reasons, and underline the facts or specific examples that support those reasons.

A Better Outdoor Lunch Space

1 Our school should add shade structures to the outdoor lunch area. At midday, students often search for the few seats under trees, while many tables sit in direct sun. A fabric canopy above several tables would give more students a comfortable place to eat. It would also make the patio usable on bright days, instead of sending students indoors or leaving them crowded beneath one small tree. The current space does not serve all students fairly.

2 Shade would help students stay safer and more focused during lunch. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that shade can reduce exposure to ultraviolet, or UV, radiation. Students who eat outside for twenty minutes may not think about sun protection, especially when they are talking with friends. A cooler table can also make it easier to finish a meal calmly and return to class ready to learn. This improvement supports both health and learning each day at school.

3 Some people may worry that canopies would cost too much. However, the school could begin with one small structure near the busiest tables and ask the parent organization or local businesses to help fund it. Starting small would limit the first expense while showing whether students use the shade. Because the project would create a safer, more welcoming lunch space, the school should include a shade structure in its next campus improvement plan this year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. What reason does the author give about students' health and learning?

3. What evidence does the author use to support the health reason?

4. What concern does the author address in paragraph 3, and what solution does the author offer?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word paragraph arguing whether the school should offer a quiet indoor space during lunch. Include a clear claim, two reasons, one specific example or fact, one possible concern with a response, and a concluding statement.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Makes Sense

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the author's claim, number the two main reasons, and underline the facts or specific examples that support those reasons. 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?	**The school should add shade structures to the outdoor lunch area.**
2	What reason does the author give about students' health and learning?	**Shade would help students stay safer and more focused during lunch.**
3	What evidence does the author use to support the health reason?	**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that shade can reduce exposure to UV radiation.**
4	What concern does the author address in paragraph 3, and what solution does the author offer?	**The concern is that canopies would cost too much. The author suggests starting with one small structure and seeking help from the parent organization or local businesses.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School should offer a quiet indoor lunch space for students who need a calmer break. First, a room with tables and a staff member could help students who feel overwhelmed by noise in the cafeteria. Second, students could use the space to read, finish work, or talk quietly with friends. Some people may worry that supervision would be difficult, but the school could open one classroom near the cafeteria. A quiet option would help more students return to afternoon classes prepared to learn.

Accept equivalent statements of the claim, reasons, evidence, and cost response. For Part 3, look for a clear position, relevant support, a specific example or fact, a counterpoint with a response, and a concluding statement.