Sidewalks and Shade

Compare how two writers view one downtown proposal.

ELA.7.R.3.3 "Compare and contrast how authors with differing perspectives address the same or related topics or themes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show Lina Ortiz's perspective and circle details that show Marcus Lee's perspective. Put a star beside one detail that shows a goal they share.

Two Views of Shade

1 After a heat wave, the town of Mesa Verde proposed planting trees along its downtown sidewalks. The plan would replace several parking spaces with tree beds and benches. Supporters said the trees could shade walkers and lower the temperature near pavement. Some business owners worried about deliveries and customer parking. The town newspaper published two opinion pieces about the proposal. Both writers wanted a lively downtown, but they disagreed about which needs should guide the project.

2 In her column, student gardener Lina Ortiz argues that the town should begin with trees, not wait for a larger renovation. She describes crossing a sunny block after school, where the metal bus shelter feels hot enough to avoid. Lina connects the proposal to public health, saying shade can make walking safer during hot weather. She also notes that trees give birds places to rest. Her language, including "cooler," "safer," and "welcome," presents the project as an investment in people and living things.

3 Restaurant owner Marcus Lee supports a greener downtown, yet he questions the plan's timing and design. He focuses on the same sidewalks, but he describes delivery trucks circling blocks when loading zones are full. Marcus asks the council to protect short-term parking and add loading spaces before removing any spots. Words such as "crowded," "costly," and "rushed" create a cautious tone. Instead of rejecting trees, Marcus argues for a slower plan that protects small businesses while adding shade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Lina's position on the tree plan differ from Marcus's position?

2. Compare the evidence each writer uses to support a point of view. What does Lina focus on, and what does Marcus focus on?

3. How do the words each writer uses create different tones? Use at least one word from each writer's description.

4. What shared goal do both writers have for downtown? How do their priorities lead them to different ideas about the plan?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a change at school, such as adding a garden, changing lunch seating, or creating a new club. Write 4 to 6 sentences that compare two people's perspectives, including a shared goal, each person's priority, and words that reveal their different tones.

ANSWER KEY

Sidewalks and Shade

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that show Lina Ortiz's perspective and circle details that show Marcus Lee's perspective. Put a star beside one detail that shows a goal they share. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Lina's position on the tree plan differ from Marcus's position?	**Lina wants the town to begin planting trees now. Marcus supports trees but wants a slower plan that adds loading spaces and protects parking first.**
2	Compare the evidence each writer uses to support a point of view. What does Lina focus on, and what does Marcus focus on?	**Lina focuses on a hot bus shelter, safer walking, and birds. Marcus focuses on delivery trucks, loading zones, parking, and the needs of small businesses.**
3	How do the words each writer uses create different tones? Use at least one word from each writer's description.	**Lina's words, such as "cooler" and "welcome," create a hopeful tone. Marcus's words, such as "crowded" and "rushed," create a cautious tone.**
4	What shared goal do both writers have for downtown? How do their priorities lead them to different ideas about the plan?	**Both writers want a lively, greener downtown with shade. Lina prioritizes health and living things, while Marcus prioritizes business access, parking, and deliveries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both the librarian and the soccer coach want students to have useful outdoor space. The librarian supports a quiet garden because it would give students a place to read and observe insects. The coach prefers an open field because teams need room to practice safely. While the librarian uses words such as "peaceful" and "curious," the coach uses "active" and "ready," showing different priorities.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately identify each writer's viewpoint, evidence, tone, and shared goal. For the open task, accept any school-related topic if the response compares two distinct perspectives and includes all requested parts.