

Shade Speaks

Trace a model oral presentation from claim to action.

ELA.8.C.2.1 "Present information orally, in a logical sequence, supporting the central idea with credible evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the central idea, circle each source named, and number the signal words First, Next, and Finally to show the presentation's sequence.

A Plan for Cooler Streets

- ① Imagine giving a short presentation to the city council about summer heat. My central idea is that planting and protecting street trees can make neighborhoods safer during hot weather. First, pavement and dark roofs absorb sunlight, so cities often stay warmer than nearby rural areas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that this urban heat island effect can raise daytime and nighttime temperatures. Heat can be especially dangerous for older adults, young children, and people who work outside. Shade trees address one part of this problem by blocking sunlight before it reaches sidewalks and buildings.
- ② Next, trees can cool places in two ways. Their leaves shade hard surfaces, and water evaporating from leaves can cool nearby air. In a 2023 summary, the U.S. Forest Service reported that urban trees provide cooling through shade and evapotranspiration. Trees can also improve air quality by trapping some particles on their leaves, although they do not replace reducing pollution at its source. These benefits matter most where residents have little shade. Therefore, a tree plan should focus first on bus stops, playgrounds, and streets where people walk during the hottest part of the day.
- ③ Finally, city leaders can use evidence to choose locations and care for new trees. The EPA's heat island guidance recommends expanding tree canopy and other green infrastructure as one way to lower urban temperatures. However, planting is only the beginning. Young trees need water, space for roots, and protection from damage. A useful proposal would map neighborhoods with scarce canopy, ask residents where shade is needed, and fund maintenance for several years. In conclusion, street trees are not a complete solution to extreme heat, but a well-planned program can provide practical, local protection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the speaker's central idea?

2 How does the speaker organize the presentation from beginning to end?

3 Give two pieces of evidence from named credible sources that support the central idea.

4 Why does the speaker say that street trees are not a complete solution to extreme heat?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Draft a 90 to 120 word oral presentation supporting one practical improvement at your school or in your community. State a central idea, organize your ideas with at least three sequence signals, and support your idea with at least two facts that each name a credible source.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the central idea, circle each source named, and number the signal words First, Next, and Finally to show the presentation's sequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the speaker's central idea?	Planting and protecting street trees can make neighborhoods safer during hot weather.
2	How does the speaker organize the presentation from beginning to end?	The speaker first explains the heat problem, next gives evidence about how trees help, and finally proposes how leaders can plan and care for trees.
3	Give two pieces of evidence from named credible sources that support the central idea.	The EPA explains that urban heat islands can raise daytime and nighttime temperatures. The U.S. Forest Service reports that urban trees cool places through shade and evapotranspiration.
4	Why does the speaker say that street trees are not a complete solution to extreme heat?	The speaker acknowledges a limit instead of overclaiming, which makes the conclusion more credible while showing that trees still offer practical local protection.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add clear handwashing reminders near restrooms and cafeteria sinks. First, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that handwashing with soap can reduce diarrheal illness by 23 to 40 percent. This evidence shows that a simple reminder can support healthy habits. Next, the CDC reports that handwashing can reduce respiratory illnesses, such as colds, by 16 to 21 percent. Finally, our school can place waterproof signs at sinks and teach the steps during advisory. Because these low-cost actions use evidence and reach many students, the school should begin this project this semester.

Accept equivalent statements of the central idea and accurate explanations that connect evidence to the claim. For the oral presentation, accept different practical topics when the response has a clear claim, logical sequence, and accurately named credible sources.