

From Roof to Roots

Trace how a model passage moves from a focused opening to a lasting conclusion.

10.T.SS.1.d "Apply knowledge of text structure and organization to create coherent and cohesive texts with an introduction that guides the focus and captures the audience; purposefully organized and developed supporting facts, reasons, explanations..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the sentence that states the passage's focus, write 1 and 2 beside the two main supporting points in the order they appear, and underline the final sentence. Your marks should show how the writer guides the reader from an idea to a conclusion.

Gardens Above the Street

- ① On a July afternoon, a city block can feel several degrees hotter than a nearby park. Dark roofs absorb sunlight, and air conditioners push warm air back outside. Rooftop gardens offer one practical way to soften that heat while giving crowded neighborhoods useful green space. By covering part of a roof with soil, plants, and a protective water barrier, a building can turn an unused surface into a place that cools, absorbs rain, and supports living things. The design also protects the roof materials below from intense sunlight.
- ② First, rooftop plants reduce heat through shade and evaporation. Leaves block some sunlight before it reaches roofing materials, while water released by plants can cool the surrounding air. This does not make every building cool enough to replace air conditioning, but it can lower roof temperatures and reduce the energy needed indoors. In Chicago, researchers found that a green roof on City Hall was substantially cooler than nearby conventional roofs during summer measurements. That difference shows how a design choice at the top of one building can affect conditions below it.
- ③ Rooftop gardens also manage rainwater, which is especially valuable where pavement prevents water from soaking into the ground. During a storm, the growing layer holds some rainfall and releases it more slowly, easing pressure on storm drains. Native flowers may also provide nectar and shelter for insects and birds. Installing a garden requires planning because a roof must support the added weight, and plants need care during dry periods. Still, a rooftop garden changes a hard, hot surface into a small working landscape, proving that even overlooked spaces can help a city breathe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence introduces the passage's main focus, and what solution does it introduce?

2 How does paragraph 2 develop the first supporting point? Name the benefit, explain how it works, and identify the evidence the writer uses.

3 Why does the writer place the discussion of rainwater after the discussion of heat? Use details from the passage to explain the organization.

4 How does the final sentence create a memorable conclusion while connecting back to the passage's focus?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-paragraph proposal, 180 to 220 words, recommending one realistic improvement for your school or community. Begin with an engaging introduction that states your focus, organize supporting reasons and specific details in a logical order, and end with a memorable conclusion that connects to your main idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the sentence that states the passage's focus, write 1 and 2 beside the two main supporting points in the order they appear, and underline the final sentence. Your marks should show how the writer guides the reader from an idea to a conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence introduces the passage's main focus, and what solution does it introduce?	"Rooftop gardens offer one practical way to soften that heat while giving crowded neighborhoods useful green space." It introduces rooftop gardens as a solution to urban heat and limited green space.
2	How does paragraph 2 develop the first supporting point? Name the benefit, explain how it works, and identify the evidence the writer uses.	It explains that plants reduce heat through shade and evaporation. It explains how leaves block sunlight and plants release water, then uses Chicago City Hall as evidence that a green roof was cooler than conventional roofs.
3	Why does the writer place the discussion of rainwater after the discussion of heat? Use details from the passage to explain the organization.	After establishing that gardens can cool buildings, the writer adds a second benefit, slowing rainwater before it reaches storm drains. The paragraph then broadens the benefits to wildlife and acknowledges planning needs before the conclusion.
4	How does the final sentence create a memorable conclusion while connecting back to the passage's focus?	It describes the roof changing from a hard, hot surface into a working landscape and ends with the image of helping a city breathe. This connects to the earlier focus on reducing heat and adding useful green space.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At lunch, the line for the water fountain often becomes a small traffic jam, while students carrying reusable bottles wait or choose sugary drinks instead. Our school should install two bottle-filling stations near the cafeteria and gym. This practical change would make drinking water easier to reach, reduce disposable plastic waste, and show that the school treats everyday health choices as worth designing for. First, filling stations save time during the busiest parts of the day. A unit that fills a bottle quickly can move students through the line more efficiently than a standard fountain, leaving more time to eat or get to class. The stations can also display the number of plastic bottles avoided, making the environmental benefit visible rather than abstract. Placing one station by the cafeteria and another by the gym would serve students where thirst and bottle use are most common. Cost and maintenance deserve attention, so the school could seek a grant or include filters in its facilities budget. Even with those responsibilities, the change offers daily value: students gain water, staff manage shorter lines, and fewer bottles enter trash cans. Bottle-filling stations are not a renovation, but they solve a problem in a visible way. Each refill would turn a pause in the day into proof that choices can leave a path behind.

Accept answers that accurately identify the introduction, ordered supporting points, and concluding image with relevant passage evidence. For the proposal, accept varied topics if the response has three coherent paragraphs, a clear focus, logically developed support, and a conclusion that connects back to the focus.