A Canopy Plan

Study how a proposal builds its case from opening to 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 main proposal, number the two body reasons 1 and 2, and underline the sentence in the conclusion that leaves the reader with a final image.

Why Our Town Needs More Trees

1 On summer afternoons, a walk across an unshaded parking lot can feel far hotter than a walk beneath a leafy street. Our town should expand its tree canopy, the layer of leaves and branches that shades streets, yards, and sidewalks. This is not simply a beautification project. Carefully placed trees can make daily life safer, cooler, and more comfortable. A practical planting plan, especially in neighborhoods with little shade, would give residents benefits that last for decades. The strongest case for planting trees begins with the heat people experience where pavement dominates the landscape.

2 First, shade from a tree keeps sunlight from striking the pavement and building walls below it. Leaves also release water vapor, a process that can cool the nearby air. These effects matter most where dark surfaces absorb heat all day. Second, trees help manage rain. Their leaves catch some rainfall, while roots help soil take in water. That slows runoff that can overwhelm storm drains during heavy rain. By placing trees along sidewalks, near bus stops, and in broad paved areas, planners can address heat and rain where residents feel both problems most directly.

3 Planting and caring for trees costs money, and young trees need watering and protection. Those challenges are reasons to plan well, not reasons to do nothing. The town can choose hardy native species, involve residents in care, and plant first where shade is scarce. A canopy grows slowly, but its value grows each year as well. When officials decide how to improve public spaces, they should see trees as useful infrastructure, not optional decoration. One sapling may look small beside a wide street, yet it can become a living shelter for the people who will walk there tomorrow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the first paragraph introduce the proposal and capture the reader's attention?

2. What two transition words organize the supporting reasons in the second paragraph? What topic follows each word?

3. Choose one detail about trees in the second paragraph. Explain how it supports the author's claim that trees improve daily life.

4. How does the final paragraph respond to a possible concern before ending with a memorable conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word proposal for one improvement at your school. Begin with a clear claim that draws readers in, develop two reasons with transitions and specific details, and end with a final sentence readers will remember.

ANSWER KEY

A Canopy Plan

GRADE 10 · 10.T.SS.1.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the sentence that states the main proposal, number the two body reasons 1 and 2, and underline the sentence in the conclusion that leaves the reader with a final image. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph introduce the proposal and capture the reader's attention?	**It opens by contrasting a hot, unshaded parking lot with a leafy street, then states that the town should expand its tree canopy.**
2	What two transition words organize the supporting reasons in the second paragraph? What topic follows each word?	**"First" introduces cooling and shade. "Second" introduces managing rain and runoff.**
3	Choose one detail about trees in the second paragraph. Explain how it supports the author's claim that trees improve daily life.	**Answers may explain that shade blocks sunlight from pavement and walls, water vapor can cool nearby air, or leaves and roots slow runoff and help soil absorb water.**
4	How does the final paragraph respond to a possible concern before ending with a memorable conclusion?	**It admits that trees cost money and need care, then argues for planning well. It ends with the image of a small sapling becoming living shelter for future walkers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered outdoor study area beside the library. Students often need a quiet place to read, meet, or wait between activities, yet rain and strong sun make the current benches difficult to use. First, a simple roof and several tables would create usable space in more kinds of weather. Second, placing the area near the library would let students borrow books or ask staff for help quickly. The project would improve a neglected corner of campus. Instead of passing empty benches, students could see a space built for focused work and conversation.

Accept responses that accurately identify the proposal, organization, supporting details, and conclusion in the passage. For the writing task, look for a clear introduction, two purposefully organized reasons with details, and a distinct concluding sentence.