

Shade the Wait

Analyze how a public proposal builds support for a specific action.

10.T.T.3 "Argumentative Techniques: Evaluate and apply argumentative techniques to enhance text's appeal to audiences or achieve specific purposes."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim and each call for action. Circle evidence or examples, then number each different persuasive technique you notice in the margin, such as evidence, a counterargument, an emotional appeal, or a rhetorical question.

A Request for Safer Bus Stops

- ① Members of the Riverton City Council, please add shade structures at the busiest bus stops before next summer. Last July, I watched a preschooler and her grandfather wait on an unshaded sidewalk while the temperature reached 96 degrees. They moved into a nearby parking lot for a thin strip of shade, then hurried back when the bus arrived. A bus stop should help people travel safely, not force riders to choose between missing a bus and standing in direct sun. Shade would especially help older adults, young children, and riders with medical conditions.
- ② Shade is not a luxury. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that extreme heat can cause heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and it identifies older adults and young children as groups at higher risk. Riverton recorded 18 days at or above 95 degrees last summer, according to the city weather station. Installing shade at the 20 stops with the highest ridership would focus funds where most people wait. Some residents may argue that shelters cost too much. Yet the council already budgets for sidewalk repairs and transit improvements, and shade structures could be included when those high-use stops are upgraded.
- ③ Council members, this proposal matches Riverton's promise to make public spaces usable for everyone. A shaded stop tells riders that their time and health matter, whether they are commuting to work or returning from school. Imagine waiting fifteen minutes beside a wide, empty street with no tree or roof overhead. Would you want a family member to wait there during a heat warning? Approve a pilot program this fall, measure how riders use the improved stops, and use the results to guide future projects. Twenty well-chosen structures can make a daily trip more humane.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What action does the writer want the council to take, and what audience concern does the action address?

2 How does the story about the preschooler and her grandfather strengthen the writer's appeal to council members?

3 How do the CDC information and Riverton's temperature record work together as evidence for the proposal?

4 What counterargument does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word message to Principal Lopez asking for a water-refill station near the gym. Use the fact that 68 percent of students in a student council survey said they bring reusable bottles, include a counterargument and response, and end with a clear call for action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim and each call for action. Circle evidence or examples, then number each different persuasive technique you notice in the margin, such as evidence, a counterargument, an emotional appeal, or a rhetorical question. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the writer want the council to take, and what audience concern does the action address?	The writer wants the council to add shade structures at busy bus stops. The action addresses riders' safety and health during extreme heat.
2	How does the story about the preschooler and her grandfather strengthen the writer's appeal to council members?	It creates an emotional, concrete example of riders struggling in direct sun, making the problem feel immediate and human.
3	How do the CDC information and Riverton's temperature record work together as evidence for the proposal?	The CDC information explains that extreme heat can harm vulnerable groups, while the local temperature record shows that Riverton experiences frequent severe heat.
4	What counterargument does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?	The writer acknowledges that shelters may cost too much. The response is that the council already funds related improvements, so shade structures can be added when high-use stops are upgraded.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Lopez, please install a water-refill station near the gym this year. In a student council survey, 68 percent of students said they bring reusable bottles, yet the nearest fountain is across the building. After practice, athletes often wait in line for water instead of leaving on time. Some may say a new station is too expensive. However, placing one near the gym could reduce disposable-bottle use and serve hundreds of students each week. Will we make healthy choices easier or keep sending students on a long walk? Add the station to this year's facilities plan.

Accept answers that accurately identify and explain the relationship between a technique, its intended audience, and its purpose. For Part 3, accept varied claims and reasoning if the response is 90 to 110 words, uses the given survey data, addresses a counterargument, and includes a direct call for action.