Shade With Purpose

Analyze how rhetorical choices shape a civic argument.

11.P.AC.1.a "Identify, apply, and analyze the literary, expository, and opinion (grades K-5) or rhetorical (grades 6-12) elements in texts, explaining or evaluating how specific elements affect the target audience and support the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's main claim, circle the concession in paragraph 2, and number three other rhetorical choices that support the writer's purpose.

A Cooler Way Forward

1 At 3:15 on a July afternoon, the walk from Eastview High to the nearest bus stop feels longer than its four blocks. Heat rises from the unshaded sidewalk, and students cluster beneath the narrow awning of a closed shop. One student presses a water bottle to her forehead while traffic idles beside her. This is not merely an uncomfortable walk. It is a daily design choice that tells pedestrians they must endure summer rather than move through their neighborhood safely. The city should plant and maintain shade trees along major walking routes.

2 Trees are not decorations added after a project is complete. Their leaves block some solar radiation, and their roots help absorb rainwater that might otherwise rush across pavement. A shaded route can make walking, waiting for a bus, or using a wheelchair less punishing during hot weather. Some residents worry that roots can damage sidewalks or that young trees need regular watering. Those concerns deserve planning, not surrender. Why approve another expensive resurfacing project without also investing in the living infrastructure that protects the people who use it?

3 City council members can begin with a practical map: identify routes near schools, clinics, libraries, and bus stops that lack shade. Then fund tree wells, watering, and pruning as part of street maintenance, with species chosen for local conditions and overhead utility lines. Residents can report empty planting spaces and attend budget meetings to support the plan. This proposal will not erase every dangerous hot day, but it can replace bare corridors with cooler, more welcoming ones over time. A city that invites people to walk must first give them a place to step out of the sun.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's central claim? Explain how the opening scene supports that claim.

2. What concern does the writer concede in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?

3. How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 2 support the writer's purpose?

4. How does the final sentence appeal to the target audience's values?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word paragraph urging a local decision-making audience to improve a public space. Use a clear claim, one concrete image or example, and either a concession or a rhetorical question. After your paragraph, add a parenthetical label naming the rhetorical elements you used.

ANSWER KEY

Shade With Purpose

GRADE 11 · 11.P.AC.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's main claim, circle the concession in paragraph 2, and number three other rhetorical choices that support the writer's purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's central claim? Explain how the opening scene supports that claim.	**The city should plant and maintain shade trees along major walking routes. The scene makes heat and lack of shade concrete by showing students waiting beside an unshaded sidewalk.**
2	What concern does the writer concede in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?	**The writer concedes that roots can damage sidewalks and young trees need regular watering. The writer argues that these concerns require planning, not abandoning the proposal.**
3	How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 2 support the writer's purpose?	**It pushes the audience to question spending on resurfacing without also protecting pedestrians, making shade trees seem like a necessary public investment.**
4	How does the final sentence appeal to the target audience's values?	**It frames shade as a responsibility of a city that wants people to walk, appealing to civic duty, safety, and access.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School board members should keep the library open two evenings each week. At four o'clock each day, students who wait for rides sit on the hallway floor, balancing laptops on their knees because the library doors are locked. Extra hours would give them tables, internet access, and a quiet, reliable place to finish work. Staffing costs are real, but the district could begin with two evenings and measure attendance before expanding the schedule. If a library is built for learning, why should it close when many students finally have time to use it? (Claim, concrete image, concession, rhetorical question)

Accept responses that accurately identify rhetorical choices and explain a reasonable effect on city officials, residents, or other civic audiences. For the open response, accept varied local issues if the paragraph has a clear purpose, audience awareness, and the required rhetorical elements.