Plans With Proof

Trace how an author builds a practical, qualified argument.

11.P.EICC.1.d "Build a repertoire of comprehension and composition skills, strategies, and techniques, drawing from them as needed to aid the interpretation and construction of texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's central claim, circle evidence or examples that support it, and write L beside each limit or concern the author addresses. These marks show how the author builds a credible proposal.

Cooling a City Block

(1) On a July afternoon, a block with little shade can feel much hotter than a nearby tree-lined street. Pavement absorbs sunlight and releases stored heat after sunset, while tree canopies shade sidewalks and buildings. For that reason, many cities treat tree planting as more than a beautification project. A well-planned canopy can reduce heat exposure, slow stormwater runoff, and make walking more comfortable. Still, planting trees alone does not guarantee an equitable cooling plan, because young trees need years of care before they provide broad shade.

(2) Evidence can help planners decide where that care will matter most. Satellite images and temperature sensors often reveal that neighborhoods with sparse vegetation experience higher daytime surface temperatures than leafier areas. Health and housing data can then show which residents face added risk, such as older adults, people without reliable air conditioning, or renters in poorly insulated buildings. These maps do not tell the whole story, however. A sensor measures conditions at a particular place and time, so planners should pair its readings with residents' observations about bus stops, playgrounds, and routes home.

(3) Some residents oppose new trees when they expect blocked storefronts, fallen branches, or higher maintenance costs. Those concerns deserve a response rather than dismissal. A city can select species suited to available space, publish a pruning schedule, and explain who will maintain trees after planting. It can also invite residents to help identify priority sites, especially where shade is scarce. By combining measurements with local experience, a tree plan becomes easier to test and revise. The strongest proposal is not simply 'plant more trees,' but 'plant and maintain trees where they will reduce the greatest heat burden.'

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What refined claim does the author make in the final sentence?

2. How does the evidence in paragraph 2 help the author construct a stronger tree-planting proposal?

3. What limitation does the author introduce in paragraph 1, and why does including it make the argument more credible?

4. How does paragraph 3 address the concerns of residents who oppose new trees?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word proposal for one practical improvement at your school or in your neighborhood. State a precise claim, include two specific pieces of evidence or examples, and acknowledge one reasonable concern before responding to it.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's central claim, circle evidence or examples that support it, and write L beside each limit or concern the author addresses. These marks show how the author builds a credible proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What refined claim does the author make in the final sentence?	**Cities should plant and maintain trees where they will reduce the greatest heat burden.**
2	How does the evidence in paragraph 2 help the author construct a stronger tree-planting proposal?	**Temperature, vegetation, health, and housing data help planners identify places and residents with greater heat risk.**
3	What limitation does the author introduce in paragraph 1, and why does including it make the argument more credible?	**Young trees need years of care before providing broad shade. Including this limitation avoids suggesting that planting trees creates immediate, guaranteed equity.**
4	How does paragraph 3 address the concerns of residents who oppose new trees?	**It proposes suitable species, pruning schedules, clear maintenance responsibility, and resident input on priority sites.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install covered bicycle racks beside the east entrance. During rainy weeks, students who bike must leave wet seats and backpacks in the open, and the existing racks are full before first period on many mornings. Covered racks would protect equipment and make cycling a more workable choice for students who live nearby. Some people may argue that the project would take parking space and cost money. The school could use the narrow unused strip beside the entrance and begin with a small set of racks, then add more only if students use them regularly.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, evidence, limitation, and responses to concerns. For the open response, look for a focused proposal, two relevant specifics, and a meaningful concern followed by a workable response.