Purpose Changes Meaning

Read three texts about one topic, each written for a different purpose.

11.T.C.1.a "Use knowledge of texts' distinct disciplinary, personal, or technical purposes to aid comprehension. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase in each paragraph that reveals why the text was written. In the margin, label the purpose as explain evidence, reflect personally, or direct a procedure.

Heat at Lincoln High

1. At 2:15 p.m. on June 12, students measured surface temperatures in three places beside Lincoln High School. The blacktop parking lot reached 46°C, while grass under an oak measured 31°C. The readings were taken with the same infrared thermometer after each surface had received sun for at least thirty minutes. Because asphalt absorbs and releases more solar energy than vegetation, the difference supports the hypothesis that replacing some paved areas with trees could reduce afternoon heat exposure. The investigation does not establish how much cooler the entire campus would become, since wind, shade, and pavement color also affect temperature.

2. When I crossed the parking lot after rehearsal, heat rose through my sneakers and made the air above the cars shimmer. I had passed that spot every day without thinking about it, but the temperature test gave it a new meaning. Under the oak, Maya and I could talk without squinting or rushing inside. I left wondering whether a few more trees would make students feel that they belong outdoors in June, rather than treating the courtyard as a place to escape. I want to ask the principal to visit it at lunch.

3. To compare a shaded surface with a paved surface, begin by checking that the infrared thermometer has fresh batteries. At the same time of day, stand the same distance from each surface and point the sensor straight down. Record the temperature, location, cloud conditions, and time in a notebook. Repeat each reading three times, then calculate the average before comparing sites. Do not aim the sensor at a person, a window, or shiny metal, because those targets can give misleading readings. Share the results only after checking that units and labels are complete.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which paragraph has a disciplinary purpose? What conclusion does it cautiously support, and which two details show that it uses evidence?

2. Which paragraph mainly serves a personal purpose? Explain how the speaker's details help achieve that purpose.

3. What task does paragraph 3 help a reader perform? Name two directions that make its technical purpose clear.

4. Why would it be a mistake to read paragraph 2 as if it were a technical procedure? Use one feature of the paragraph in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one school event or place. Write three one-sentence entries of 25 to 35 words each: a disciplinary observation for researchers, a personal reflection for a friend, and a technical direction for a volunteer. Change the details and language to fit each purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Purpose Changes Meaning

GRADE 11 · 11.T.C.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase in each paragraph that reveals why the text was written. In the margin, label the purpose as explain evidence, reflect personally, or direct a procedure. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph has a disciplinary purpose? What conclusion does it cautiously support, and which two details show that it uses evidence?	**Paragraph 1. It supports the cautious conclusion that replacing some paved areas with trees could reduce afternoon heat exposure. Evidence details include the 46°C and 31°C measurements, use of the same infrared thermometer, and the statement that other factors also affect temperature.**
2	Which paragraph mainly serves a personal purpose? Explain how the speaker's details help achieve that purpose.	**Paragraph 2. The first-person memories, physical sensations, conversation with Maya, and hope that students can belong outdoors share the speaker's personal response to the heat.**
3	What task does paragraph 3 help a reader perform? Name two directions that make its technical purpose clear.	**It helps a reader collect and compare surface-temperature data. Directions include checking the batteries, measuring at the same time and distance, recording conditions, repeating readings three times, and avoiding people, windows, and shiny metal.**
4	Why would it be a mistake to read paragraph 2 as if it were a technical procedure? Use one feature of the paragraph in your answer.	**Paragraph 2 is a personal reflection, not a procedure. It uses first-person feelings and memories, such as heat rising through the speaker's sneakers and wondering about more trees, rather than ordered directions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Disciplinary observation: At noon, the compost bin measured 34°C, and its contents were damp beneath a dry top layer, suggesting that mixing the material could improve airflow and decomposition. Personal reflection: Opening the bin with Jordan made me surprisingly proud, because yesterday's lunch scraps had become warm, earthy soil instead of smelly trash headed for the landfill. Technical direction: Put on gloves, lift the lid, and turn the compost with a shovel for two minutes, keeping plastic wrappers out before you close the bin securely.

Accept equivalent identifications of each text's purpose when students support them with accurate language or details from the passage. For the open response, check that each entry addresses the same event or place but changes voice, details, and structure for its stated purpose.