Shade Has Stakes

Analyze how a public comment layers appeals and rhetorical devices.

11.T.T.3.d "Integrate multiple rhetorical devices or appeals strategically. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each appeal and label it E, L, or P for ethos, logos, or pathos. Circle rhetorical devices, then number the appeals in the order they strengthen the speaker's argument.

Public Comment on Heat Safety

1 Members of the Riverton City Council, summer heat is no longer an abstract forecast. Last July, pavement outside Lincoln Apartments measured 137 degrees at midafternoon, while the neighborhood had only three public shade structures. I am speaking as a student volunteer with the county health department's heat-safety team, where I helped distribute water during four heat advisories. We should fund shaded bus stops and tree planting along the Route 6 corridor. A bus stop should be a place to begin a day, not a metal bench where an older neighbor waits in danger.

2 Some may ask whether a small city can afford this plan. The better question is whether we can afford to ignore it. The proposed first phase costs $480,000, yet it targets the streets used by nearly 2,000 daily bus riders and adds 180 trees, according to the city's transportation survey and urban forestry plan. Trees cool sidewalks, shelters protect riders, and safer waits make transit more reliable. This is not a choice between fiscal care and public care, it is a chance to practice both. If we invest before the next heat wave, we protect the people who cannot simply choose a cooler route.

3 Council members, approve the first phase this month. We have the plan, the data, and the responsibility. Delaying will not make the sun less intense, and it will not make a rider's walk shorter. Imagine a parent holding a child's hand beside a treeless arterial road, checking the time because the bus is late and the sidewalk radiates heat. That parent deserves more than our sympathy. They deserve shade designed into the city. Let us spend carefully, measure results publicly, and build a corridor that says every resident belongs in our future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail in paragraph 1 establishes the speaker's credibility, and how does it strengthen the request?

2. How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 2 respond strategically to a possible objection about cost?

3. How does the sentence beginning "This is not a choice" use contrast to support the speaker's logical appeal?

4. Explain how paragraph 3 combines an emotional appeal with a practical appeal to push the council toward action.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word paragraph urging school leaders to begin high school no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Include a clear claim, a fact from a named credible source, a concrete human impact, one rhetorical question, and a three-part parallel structure.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Has Stakes

GRADE 11 · 11.T.T.3.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each appeal and label it E, L, or P for ethos, logos, or pathos. Circle rhetorical devices, then number the appeals in the order they strengthen the speaker's argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail in paragraph 1 establishes the speaker's credibility, and how does it strengthen the request?	**The speaker says they volunteered with the county health department's heat-safety team and distributed water during four heat advisories. This experience makes the speaker a more credible advocate for heat-safety measures.**
2	How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 2 respond strategically to a possible objection about cost?	**It shifts the focus from whether the city can afford the plan to whether the city can afford the consequences of doing nothing.**
3	How does the sentence beginning "This is not a choice" use contrast to support the speaker's logical appeal?	**It contrasts fiscal care with public care, then argues that the plan can achieve both. The contrast rejects the idea that responsible spending and public safety must compete.**
4	Explain how paragraph 3 combines an emotional appeal with a practical appeal to push the council toward action.	**The image of a parent and child waiting beside a hot, treeless road creates concern, while "spend carefully" and "measure results publicly" promise responsible oversight. Together, these appeals make approval seem both compassionate and practical.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School leaders should begin high school no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends start times of 8:30 or later for middle and high schools so adolescents can get needed sleep. Consider the student who nods off during first-period chemistry after finishing homework and caring for a younger sibling. How can we expect alert thinking when the schedule cuts into rest? A later start would support safer driving, stronger focus, and healthier routines. This change is not an excuse to lower expectations, it is a practical way to give students a fair chance to meet them.

Accept equivalent identifications of ethos, logos, pathos, contrast, parallelism, repetition, vivid imagery, and rhetorical questions when students explain their strategic effect accurately. For Part 3, check that the response meets the word range and integrates all required elements into one coherent argument.