

Heat Plan Under Lens

Analyze how structure and clarity shape a public proposal.

12.T.T.2.a "Evaluate and critique expository techniques and organizational patterns and their effect; evaluate and critique clarity of information and its impact. (1)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that make a main claim, circle transition words or phrases, and write a two- to four-word purpose beside each paragraph. Use your marks to judge how the passage guides readers and where its information becomes unclear.

Testing Trees Against City Heat

- ① On a July afternoon, a city block can be far hotter than a nearby park. Pavement and dark roofs absorb solar energy, then release heat after sunset. This pattern, called the urban heat island effect, can raise neighborhood temperatures and increase demand for air conditioning. City planners often propose planting trees because shade cools surfaces and leaves release water vapor. Yet a proposal should distinguish between a promising idea and a demonstrated local result. Residents need to know where heat is concentrated, who faces the greatest exposure, and how a project will be measured.
- ② To choose sites, the planning department used satellite images taken during clear summer weather. These images estimate land-surface temperature, not the air temperature measured at eye level. On the map, large parking lots and low-shade streets appear warmer than tree-lined blocks. The department then compared the map with census information about age and household income. That comparison can help target resources, but the report does not state the image date, the time of day, or the temperature difference between the mapped areas. Without those details, readers cannot judge how strongly the map supports the proposed locations.
- ③ Rather than promise that every tree will transform a neighborhood, the proposal recommends a three-year trial on three blocks. First, crews would record shade coverage and surface temperatures before planting. Next, they would plant drought-tolerant trees and maintain them during establishment. Finally, the city would repeat the measurements each summer and publish the results. This sequence makes the plan easy to follow. However, the proposal says success means "meaningful cooling," a phrase with no numerical threshold. A clearer plan would name a target, identify the measurement locations, and explain how residents could compare results with the original conditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage move from paragraph 1 through paragraph 3? Explain one effect of this organization on the reader.

2 What technique do the words “First,” “Next,” and “Finally” create in paragraph 3, and how does that technique affect clarity?

3 Name two details missing from the report in paragraph 2. Why does their absence weaken the map as evidence for choosing locations?

4 Does the phrase “meaningful cooling” provide a clear way to judge the trial’s success? Explain using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90- to 120-word critique of the tree-planting proposal. Identify one organizational choice and one clarity problem, then recommend a revision that makes the evidence easier to evaluate. Include at least two details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that make a main claim, circle transition words or phrases, and write a two- to four-word purpose beside each paragraph. Use your marks to judge how the passage guides readers and where its information becomes unclear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage move from paragraph 1 through paragraph 3? Explain one effect of this organization on the reader.	It moves from the heat problem and need for information, to evidence and its limits, to a proposed trial. This order helps readers see why the trial is needed while recognizing that the current evidence is incomplete.
2	What technique do the words “First,” “Next,” and “Finally” create in paragraph 3, and how does that technique affect clarity?	They create a chronological sequence of actions. The sequence makes the trial steps easy to follow.
3	Name two details missing from the report in paragraph 2. Why does their absence weaken the map as evidence for choosing locations?	The report omits the image date, time of day, and temperature difference between areas. Without these details, readers cannot judge whether the map comparisons are reliable or how strongly they support the chosen locations.
4	Does the phrase “meaningful cooling” provide a clear way to judge the trial’s success? Explain using the passage.	No. It has no numerical threshold, so readers cannot tell what amount of cooling would count as success or compare results consistently with the original conditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The proposal uses a problem-to-plan structure that helps readers see why officials want to plant trees before they read the trial steps. The numbered sequence in the last paragraph also makes the actions easy to track. However, the evidence is not yet strong enough to evaluate the plan. The satellite map lacks an image date, time of day, and temperature difference, so readers cannot tell whether its comparisons are meaningful. The city should publish those details and define success as a stated reduction in surface temperature at named measurement locations. Then residents could compare each summer’s results with the baseline.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the organization, such as context, evidence, and response, if students explain its effect on readers. For the open response, accept well-supported critiques that identify an organizational choice, a specific clarity issue, and a practical revision grounded in passage details.