Shade Under Review

Evidence, tone, and credibility in an opinion article.

7.T.C.2.b "Analyze how evidence and tone reveal the author's perspective and impact credibility. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three pieces of evidence, circle three words or phrases that show the author's tone, and put a star beside one sentence that makes the author seem more credible. Use your marks to notice how the author tries to persuade readers.

A Cooler Schoolyard

(1) At noon, our schoolyard feels less like a playground and more like a frying pan. The blacktop offers almost no shade, so students crowd beneath one small awning. I believe the district should replace part of the asphalt with trees and shade sails. This is not a fancy wish. On a sunny day in May, I used an infrared thermometer to compare surfaces. The blacktop measured 118°F, while the grass near the library measured 82°F. Those numbers show a problem we can measure, not merely complain about.

(2) Research supports the comparison. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that dark, paved surfaces absorb sunlight and can become much hotter than nearby green spaces. In a 2023 survey of 214 students at our school, 161 said they avoided the blacktop during lunch when it was sunny. The survey does not prove that heat alone kept them away, because games, friends, and noise also affect choices. Still, the EPA explanation and the student responses point in the same direction: our yard needs cooler places.

(3) Some board members may call shade sails an unnecessary luxury, but that description ignores the daily experience of students. I am not claiming that trees will solve every schoolyard problem. Trees need water and years to grow, and shade sails cost money to install. Yet doing nothing is the truly careless choice. The district can begin with sails over the busiest lunch area and plant young trees along the fence. This practical plan, supported by measurements and research, deserves serious consideration rather than a shrug.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What action does the author support? Give two pieces of evidence the author uses to support this action.

2. Choose one phrase that shows the author's tone. What tone does it create, and how does it reveal the author's perspective?

3. How does the author's statement that the survey does not prove heat alone kept students away affect the article's credibility?

4. How do the exact temperature measurements and the EPA explanation affect the credibility of the author's claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences using only the passage. State the author's perspective in sentence 1, explain how at least two pieces of evidence affect credibility in sentence 2, and explain how one tone phrase reveals the author's perspective in sentence 3.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.T.C.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three pieces of evidence, circle three words or phrases that show the author's tone, and put a star beside one sentence that makes the author seem more credible. Use your marks to notice how the author tries to persuade readers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the author support? Give two pieces of evidence the author uses to support this action.	**The author supports adding trees and shade sails to the schoolyard. Evidence includes the 118°F blacktop and 82°F grass measurements, the EPA explanation about paved surfaces absorbing sunlight, and the student survey.**
2	Choose one phrase that shows the author's tone. What tone does it create, and how does it reveal the author's perspective?	**For example, "more like a frying pan" creates an urgent, concerned tone and shows that the author sees the hot blacktop as a serious problem.**
3	How does the author's statement that the survey does not prove heat alone kept students away affect the article's credibility?	**It increases credibility because the author admits a limit in the evidence instead of claiming the survey proves more than it can.**
4	How do the exact temperature measurements and the EPA explanation affect the credibility of the author's claim?	**The measurements give specific local data, and the EPA explanation adds information from a named expert source. Together, they make the claim more believable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author believes the district should add trees and shade sails to cool the schoolyard. The specific temperature comparison and the EPA explanation make the claim more credible because they provide measurable local data and information from a named expert source. Calling the blacktop a "frying pan" creates an urgent tone and shows that the author sees the hot yard as a serious problem.

Accept evidence selections that are accurately drawn from the passage and connected to the author's claim. Accept reasonable tone descriptions when students explain how the language reveals the author's concern or criticism and affects credibility.