Evidence Builds Explanations

Notice how evidence and structure make an explanation convincing.

7.T.T.2.d "Apply expository techniques (e.g., main idea, facts, statistics, key details, text features, sense of closure) to enhance writing and engage audiences. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main idea. Circle the statistic, number the two details about rainwater 1 and 2, and box the final sentence that gives closure.

City Trees, Cooler Streets

1 City trees do more than make streets look green. They can make crowded neighborhoods safer and more comfortable during hot weather. Pavement and roofs absorb sunlight, then release heat slowly after sunset. A leafy tree blocks some sunlight before it reaches these hard surfaces. Its leaves also release water vapor, which can cool the air nearby. For these reasons, planting and caring for trees is a practical way for cities to reduce heat where people walk, wait for buses, and play.

2 One number shows why shade matters. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, shaded surfaces can be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces at peak temperatures. That difference matters at a bus stop or playground, where hot metal and pavement can burn skin. Trees also slow rainwater as it falls. Their leaves and branches catch some water, and their roots help soil absorb more of it. These details show that a tree can help with both heat and heavy rain.

3 Choosing locations carefully makes tree planting more useful. A young tree needs regular water and protection from damage, so cities must plan for its care, not only its purchase. Planting trees near sidewalks, schoolyards, and transit stops can bring shade to places people use often. However, workers must avoid blocking curb ramps, signs, or drivers' views. A well-planned tree program joins evidence with everyday needs. When a city protects its trees over time, the benefits can grow along with the branches.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the passage's main idea?

2. What statistic does the author include, and what point does it support?

3. Which two details explain how trees help during heavy rain?

4. How does the last sentence give the passage a sense of closure?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80-100 word mini-explanation about one improvement for your school or community. Give it a heading, state a clear main idea, include two accurate facts or details and one statistic, and end with a sentence that gives closure.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Builds Explanations

GRADE 7 · 7.T.T.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea. Circle the statistic, number the two details about rainwater 1 and 2, and box the final sentence that gives closure. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the passage's main idea?	**Planting and caring for city trees can reduce heat and provide other practical benefits for people.**
2	What statistic does the author include, and what point does it support?	**Shaded surfaces can be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces. This supports the point that tree shade can reduce heat.**
3	Which two details explain how trees help during heavy rain?	**Leaves and branches catch some rainwater, and roots help soil absorb more water.**
4	How does the last sentence give the passage a sense of closure?	**It returns to the benefits of trees and ends with the idea that those benefits increase as trees grow over time.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native Flowers for Our School Our school should plant a small garden of native flowers near the entrance. Native plants are adapted to local weather, so they often need less water after they are established. Their flowers can provide nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies. More than 75 percent of the world's leading food crop types benefit from animal pollination. A garden would also give science classes a place to observe insects closely. By planting native flowers, our school can support pollinators while creating a useful outdoor learning space.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage questions when students use accurate evidence from the text. For Part 3, accept varied topics if the response has a heading, clear main idea, accurate supporting information, a statistic, and a closing sentence.