

Shade Starts Here

Read a model of evidence, organization, and closure.

8.T.T.2.d "Apply multiple 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 three key details that explain how trees help, and box the final sentence that gives the passage closure.

Shade Starts Here

- ① On a hot afternoon, the pavement around Lincoln Middle School can feel much warmer than grass beside it. Trees can help. Planting and caring for trees can make school outdoor spaces cooler and useful during hot weather. Their leaves block sunlight, and water released by leaves can cool nearby air. Research in U.S. cities shows that neighborhoods with less tree cover are often hotter than leafier neighborhoods. For students walking or waiting for buses, shade is more than a pleasant extra. It can make outdoor spaces safer and more comfortable during heat waves.
- ② School grounds can become part of the solution. Planting trees near sidewalks, playgrounds, and bus stops creates shade where students need it most. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that shaded surfaces may be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces. Young trees need watering and care, so a planting plan should include staff, families, or student volunteers. Choosing native species can also support local insects and birds while reducing the need for extra water after trees are established.
- ③ A tree-planting project will not end every hot day, but it can improve the places students use each day. Start by mapping the sunniest parts of the campus and asking where shade is missing. Then work with local experts to select trees that fit the space and can survive the climate. As the trees grow, their benefits will grow too: cooler paths, more wildlife, and a schoolyard designed with heat in mind. One planted tree can become a practical step toward a cooler community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the passage's main idea? Include one key detail that supports it.

2 What statistic does the passage use, and how does it support the main idea?

3 How does the title, "Shade Starts Here," help readers predict the topic of the passage?

4 Which sentence gives the passage closure, and how does it connect to the main idea?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a five-sentence mini-explanation about one school improvement that could help students during hot weather. Add a short title, state a clear main idea, include two factual key details and one number or statistic, and end with a sentence that gives closure.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea, circle the statistic, number three key details that explain how trees help, and box the final sentence that gives the passage 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? Include one key detail that supports it.	Planting and caring for trees can make school outdoor spaces cooler and more useful during hot weather. One supporting detail is that leaves block sunlight and can cool nearby air.
2	What statistic does the passage use, and how does it support the main idea?	The EPA reports that shaded surfaces may be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces. This shows that shade can significantly reduce surface heat.
3	How does the title, "Shade Starts Here," help readers predict the topic of the passage?	It signals that the passage will explain how creating shade, especially by planting trees, can improve a place such as a school.
4	Which sentence gives the passage closure, and how does it connect to the main idea?	"One planted tree can become a practical step toward a cooler community." It ends by reinforcing that planting trees is a useful action for reducing heat.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cool Water Nearby Installing a water-bottle filling station near the gym could help students stay hydrated on hot days. During exercise and heat, people lose water through sweat. A 500-milliliter bottle holds half a liter, and reusable bottles can be refilled many times. Signs near the field and gym could direct students to the station before activity. By making water easier to reach, the school can support safer, more comfortable movement.

Accept equivalent statements of the main idea and reasonable explanations of how the title, evidence, and final sentence engage readers. For the writing task, look for all required techniques used accurately and a closing sentence that connects to the central idea.