Shade at the Stop

Trace how an argument builds from claim to conclusion.

8.T.T.3.a "Analyze the development of argumentative techniques used to present and design content, including an author's claim, supporting relevant and logical evidence, an identified counterclaim, a rebuttal..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and conclusion. Circle each piece of supporting evidence, write C beside the counterclaim, and write R beside the rebuttal so you can trace how the argument is built.

A Shelter for Riverside

1. Our town should install shade structures at the Riverside bus stop before next summer. Riders now wait on an open sidewalk, where afternoon sun can be intense. The National Weather Service advises people to seek shade during heat, because direct sunlight raises heat stress. A roof with benches would protect students, older adults, and workers while they wait. This project would make a daily public service safer and more usable for everyone who depends on the route.

2. Some residents may argue that the city should spend its limited money on road repairs instead of a bus-stop shelter. Road repairs matter, but the choices are not identical. A small shelter uses far fewer materials and workers than a road project, and it can serve people every day for years. The city can request bids, choose a durable design, and include the shelter in its regular transit budget. These steps answer the cost concern without ignoring it.

3. Therefore, the town council should approve a shade structure at Riverside before the hottest months arrive. The proposal responds to a real condition at the stop, offers protection during daily waits, and has a practical path for controlling costs. Doing nothing leaves riders in the same exposed space, even though a modest improvement is possible. By adding the shelter, the town can support transit riders and make the stop more dependable in hot weather each summer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. What two details from paragraph 1 support the claim that a shelter would be useful?

3. What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author rebut it?

4. How does the conclusion logically follow from the earlier parts of the argument?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one improvement your school should make. Write a six-sentence argument with a claim, two pieces of relevant evidence, a counterclaim, a rebuttal, and a conclusion that follows from your reasoning.

ANSWER KEY

Shade at the Stop

GRADE 8 · 8.T.T.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and conclusion. Circle each piece of supporting evidence, write C beside the counterclaim, and write R beside the rebuttal so you can trace how the argument is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	**The town should install a shade structure at the Riverside bus stop before next summer.**
2	What two details from paragraph 1 support the claim that a shelter would be useful?	**Riders wait on an open sidewalk in intense afternoon sun, and the National Weather Service advises people to seek shade during heat because direct sunlight raises heat stress.**
3	What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author rebut it?	**The counterclaim is that the city should spend limited money on road repairs instead of a shelter. The rebuttal explains that a small shelter needs fewer materials and workers than a road project, can serve people for years, and can be planned through bids, a durable design, and the transit budget.**
4	How does the conclusion logically follow from the earlier parts of the argument?	**It recommends approving the shelter because the earlier paragraphs show that riders face heat at the stop and that the cost concern can be managed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a water-bottle filling station near the gym. Students need water after physical education, and a nearby station would make refilling quick. Refilling reusable bottles can also reduce the need for single-use drink containers. Some people may say the school should use its money for other equipment. However, a station near the gym would serve many students each day and could last for years. Therefore, the school should include a filling station in its next building update.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately identifies the claim, evidence, counterclaim, rebuttal, and conclusion. For Part 3, accept varied school topics if the response contains all six required parts and the conclusion follows logically from the evidence and rebuttal.