

Shade With Purpose

Study how a focused model text builds a clear case.

9.T.SS.1.d "Apply knowledge of text structure and organization to create coherent and cohesive texts with an introduction that guides the focus and captures the audience; purposefully organized and developed supporting facts, reasons, explanations..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's main focus, circle the transition words that organize the supporting ideas, and box the final sentence. These marks show how the text leads from an introduction to a memorable conclusion.

Why Cities Need Shade Trees

- ① On a July afternoon, a shaded sidewalk can feel far more inviting than a bare stretch of concrete. As heat waves become more common in many cities, planting and protecting street trees is a practical way to make neighborhoods safer and more comfortable. Tree canopies block some sunlight before it reaches pavement and buildings, helping surfaces stay cooler. They also give people waiting for buses, walking dogs, or playing outside a place to escape direct sun. For these reasons, city planners should treat shade trees as essential public infrastructure, not as decoration.
- ② First, trees can lower the burden of extreme heat on residents. Dark pavement absorbs solar energy, then releases heat after sunset, so blocks with little shade may remain hot into the evening. A mature tree cannot solve a heat wave, but its canopy can reduce direct exposure where people travel and gather. Second, trees help manage rain. Their leaves catch some rainfall, and their roots help water enter soil instead of rushing immediately into storm drains. This matters during heavy storms, when fast runoff can flood streets. These benefits are strongest when cities choose species suited to local soil, climate, and available space.
- ③ Planting trees, however, is not enough by itself. Young trees need water, mulch, pruning, and protection from damage while they establish roots. Cities can make tree programs more effective by prioritizing neighborhoods with scarce shade and by involving residents in care decisions. A map of summer surface temperatures, for example, can help officials identify especially hot blocks before choosing planting sites. Shade grows gradually, but each healthy tree is a long-term investment in cooler streets, safer walks, and stronger neighborhoods. A city that plans for trees today gives its future residents room to breathe outside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the first paragraph introduce the writer's focus and capture the reader's attention?

2 What are the two main benefits of trees developed in the second paragraph? Include one detail that supports each benefit.

3 How does the third paragraph develop the writer's case instead of simply repeating earlier points?

4 Why is the final sentence an effective conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-paragraph proposal of 180 to 240 words about one practical improvement your school or community should make. Create an engaging introduction with a clear focus, organize supporting reasons and details with transitions, and end with a conclusion that leaves the reader with a strong final idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's main focus, circle the transition words that organize the supporting ideas, and box the final sentence. These marks show how the text leads from an introduction to a memorable conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the first paragraph introduce the writer's focus and capture the reader's attention?	It opens with the concrete image of a hot, bare sidewalk, then introduces the focus that cities should plant and protect shade trees as essential infrastructure.
2	What are the two main benefits of trees developed in the second paragraph? Include one detail that supports each benefit.	Trees reduce heat by blocking sunlight and reducing direct exposure. They also help manage rain because leaves catch rainfall and roots help water enter the soil.
3	How does the third paragraph develop the writer's case instead of simply repeating earlier points?	It explains that young trees need care and gives specific planning steps, such as prioritizing low-shade neighborhoods and using surface-temperature maps.
4	Why is the final sentence an effective conclusion?	It connects present planning to future residents and ends with the memorable image of having room to breathe outside.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our cafeteria throws away more food than students may notice. At the end of lunch, unopened milk cartons, whole fruit, and packaged snacks often fill trash bins. Our school should start a share table and teach students how to use it safely. A share table is a supervised spot where students can place certain unopened foods for other students to take. This small change could reduce waste while helping classmates who are still hungry. First, a share table can keep edible items out of the landfill. Students sometimes take food because it comes with a meal, then realize they will not eat it. If an item remains sealed and the cafeteria approves it, another student may choose it instead. Second, the program can build responsibility. Student volunteers could check the table during lunch, while cafeteria staff set clear rules about which foods are allowed. A weekly count of shared items would show whether the plan is working. To begin, the school could test the share table for one month near the cafeteria exit. Staff could review the count, student comments, and safety procedures before expanding it. The goal is not to force anyone to take unwanted food. It is to give useful food another chance. When a school treats leftovers as a problem worth solving, it can turn one lunchroom habit into a practical act of care.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the text's introduction, organized support, and conclusion when students use accurate evidence from the passage. For Part 3, look for exactly three paragraphs, a clear focus, purposeful development with transitions and specific details, and a conclusion that extends the central idea.