Cut Through Heat

Use precise language to explain a complex issue without wordiness.

11-12.W.2.d "Choose language, content-specific vocabulary, and techniques to manage the complexity of the topic, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two content-specific terms and underline words in the quoted promise that repeat the same idea. Number two details that show a limit of a proposed cooling solution.

Cooling a City Block

1. At 5 p.m., a bus rider steps from a shaded sidewalk onto an open stretch of asphalt. The pavement still radiates heat after the air begins to cool. This difference is part of the urban heat island effect: buildings and paved surfaces absorb sunlight and release heat, leaving some city areas warmer than nearby rural land. Trees can interrupt that cycle. Their leaves block direct sunlight, while transpiration, the release of water vapor from leaves, helps cool the surrounding air. The two processes matter differently: shade protects a person immediately, but transpiration can lower air temperature near the tree.

2. A cool roof tackles another surface. Its light-colored or reflective coating sends more sunlight away than a conventional dark roof, so less heat enters the building. This can reduce the energy used for air-conditioning, especially during hot weather. Yet a roof cannot shade the bus rider below, and reflective materials may create glare if poorly placed. Trees have limits, too: roots need space, and young trees need water while they become established. Those details stop a simple slogan, "Plant trees everywhere," from standing in for a plan that fits the site.

3. Suppose a neighborhood must decide where to spend a limited cooling budget. A proposal might promise "a complete and total solution to all heat problems," but that wording hides trade-offs rather than explaining them. A useful proposal would name the site, the intervention, and the outcome to measure: for example, trees along an unshaded bus stop and the midday surface temperature of its pavement. It should also report who will maintain the trees, because a sapling cannot provide the same shade as a mature canopy. Clear limits make an argument more credible, not less ambitious.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Choose one term you circled. How does the passage make its meaning clear without a long explanation?

2. Revise the quoted promise in paragraph 3 as a narrower, accurate claim about trees at the bus stop. Use no more than 14 words.

3. Rewrite “A cool roof solves street-level heat” as one accurate sentence that names a benefit and a limit from paragraph 2.

4. Why does “midday surface temperature of its pavement” communicate more than “better conditions” in the proposal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school library has 20 laptops for overnight loans; students must return each one by 8 a.m. the next school day. Write a 55 to 75 word informational paragraph explaining the program, using and clarifying one relevant term, naming a benefit and a limit, and avoiding repeated ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Cut Through Heat

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.W.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two content-specific terms and underline words in the quoted promise that repeat the same idea. Number two details that show a limit of a proposed cooling solution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Choose one term you circled. How does the passage make its meaning clear without a long explanation?	**"Transpiration" is followed by a brief definition, "the release of water vapor from leaves," which explains the term in place.**
2	Revise the quoted promise in paragraph 3 as a narrower, accurate claim about trees at the bus stop. Use no more than 14 words.	**Trees at the bus stop could lower the pavement's midday surface temperature.**
3	Rewrite "A cool roof solves street-level heat" as one accurate sentence that names a benefit and a limit from paragraph 2.	**A cool roof can reduce a building's air-conditioning use, but it cannot shade a bus rider below.**
4	Why does "midday surface temperature of its pavement" communicate more than "better conditions" in the proposal?	**It identifies what the neighborhood would measure and where, so readers can judge whether the trees help cool the pavement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library's overnight laptop loans give students who lack a computer at home a way to complete digital homework. The checkout period, the time a borrower may keep a device, ends at 8 a.m. the next school day. This deadline returns laptops for other students to use, but the library's stock of 20 devices may not meet every request.

Accept other accurate terms, revisions, and marked details supported by the passage. For the open task, check the word count, the clarified term, the benefit and limit, and the absence of repeated ideas.