Cooling a City

Notice how a writer connects and distinguishes solutions

9-10.W.2.a "Introduce a topic and organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two related problems introduced in paragraph 1, circle the three approaches to heat, and number two sentences that connect or distinguish the approaches.

More Than One Way to Beat the Heat

1 On a July afternoon, two blocks in the same city can feel surprisingly different. A street lined with trees may offer a shady walk, while a nearby block of dark pavement absorbs sunlight and gives off heat. Cities trying to reduce the danger of extreme heat must solve two related problems: lowering heat in the places people use and helping residents when temperatures are already dangerous. Trees and reflective roofs address the first problem by changing how outdoor spaces or buildings handle sunlight. Cooling centers address the second by giving people a place to escape the heat. No single approach reaches everyone.

2 Trees and reflective roofs both limit heat from the sun, but they work in different places. Tree leaves shade sidewalks and buildings, and water released by leaves can cool nearby air. A reflective roof sends more sunlight away than a dark roof, which can lower the building's need for air conditioning. Yet a roof cannot shade a person waiting at a bus stop. Trees can help there, but they need space, care, and time to grow. Planners therefore might prioritize trees along walking routes and reflective roofs on buildings with little room for planting.

3 Even well-planned shade cannot protect everyone during a heat emergency. A cooling center, often set up in a library or community building, provides an indoor space where people can cool down. Unlike a tree or a roof, it helps most directly when people can reach it and when the building is open. A person without a car may still face a hot walk to the entrance. That is why shaded routes and cooling centers can support each other: one makes the trip safer, and the other offers relief at the end. Heat plans need both long-term changes and immediate refuge.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two related problems does the introduction use to organize the city's approaches?

2. How are trees and reflective roofs alike, and what important difference between them does paragraph 2 develop?

3. How does paragraph 3 distinguish cooling centers from trees and roofs, then connect cooling centers to shaded routes?

4. How does the final sentence bring the passage's approaches together? Name the approaches that fit each part of its distinction.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one introductory paragraph of 80 to 110 words about two ways your school could reduce lunchtime waste. Introduce the topic, show one important connection and one distinction between your approaches, and make the order of your ideas clear.

ANSWER KEY

Cooling a City

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.W.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two related problems introduced in paragraph 1, circle the three approaches to heat, and number two sentences that connect or distinguish the approaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two related problems does the introduction use to organize the city's approaches?	**The city needs to lower heat in places people use and help residents when temperatures are already dangerous.**
2	How are trees and reflective roofs alike, and what important difference between them does paragraph 2 develop?	**Both limit heat from the sun. Trees can shade sidewalks and buildings, while reflective roofs send sunlight away from buildings but cannot shade someone at a bus stop.**
3	How does paragraph 3 distinguish cooling centers from trees and roofs, then connect cooling centers to shaded routes?	**Cooling centers offer indoor relief when people can reach them and they are open. Shaded routes can make the trip to a cooling center safer.**
4	How does the final sentence bring the passage's approaches together? Name the approaches that fit each part of its distinction.	**Trees and reflective roofs are long-term changes that reduce heat. Cooling centers provide immediate refuge during dangerous heat. A shaded route can also help people reach that refuge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At lunch, a school can tackle waste before and after students eat. Letting students choose smaller first servings could prevent some food from being thrown out; students who are still hungry could request more. Collecting leftover fruit peels and other suitable food scraps for compost would address waste that remains rather than preventing it. Both approaches reduce what goes into the trash, but they act at different points in the meal. Starting with portions matters because scraps never created do not need to be collected; composting offers a use for suitable scraps that remain.

Accept other accurate comparisons and connections supported by the passage. For the open task, look for a clear topic, two distinct approaches, an explicit connection, and a logical order within 80 to 110 words.