Waiting in the Heat

Use strong evidence to evaluate a city planning decision.

RI.9-10.1 "Cite multiple pieces of evidence that most strongly and thoroughly support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about how shade works, circle two details about riders' needs, and number two details that complicate a simple solution. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers.

Who Gets Shade at the Bus Stop?

1 At a bus stop on a hot afternoon, waiting can mean standing beside dark pavement with no place to escape the sun. Asphalt and concrete absorb sunlight and release heat, while a tree canopy blocks some sunlight before it reaches the ground. A roof can shade a small waiting area even before a young tree grows large enough to help. Shade does not lower the temperature of all the air around a stop, but it reduces the sunlight striking a person's skin. For someone waiting through several missed buses, that difference can make the wait less punishing.

2 The best location for shade is not always the stop with the most empty space. A stop near a clinic may serve people who cannot stand for long, while a stop outside a warehouse may have workers leaving during the hottest part of the day. Riders at either stop may have little choice about when they travel. A city can count boardings and observe when sunlight reaches each waiting area, but those measures do not show who must wait longer when buses run late. Talking with riders can reveal problems that a map or a passenger count misses.

3 Planting trees and installing shelters solve different parts of the problem. A mature tree can shade pavement beyond a single stop, but roots need room, and branches can interfere with overhead wires. A shelter can provide shade sooner and offer a seat, yet its roof may cast a narrow shadow that shifts away from riders as the sun moves. Neither choice replaces reliable service: shorter waits reduce the time people spend in the heat. When budgets are tight, a city needs more than a picture of an empty sidewalk to decide where to act first.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the passage explicitly say shade can do at a bus stop? Support your answer with two distinct details from the text.

2. Why might boarding counts alone overlook riders most affected by heat? Support your inference with two details from paragraph 2.

3. A planner says planting trees will fix every heat problem at bus stops. Challenge this claim with one piece of evidence from paragraph 1 and one from paragraph 3.

4. Why might a photograph of an empty bus stop be insufficient for deciding where to act first? Support your inference with evidence from two different paragraphs.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- to seven-sentence recommendation to a city deciding how to improve hot bus stops. Propose a first step, support it with at least three specific details from at least two paragraphs, and acknowledge one limitation of your proposal.

ANSWER KEY

Waiting in the Heat

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about how shade works, circle two details about riders' needs, and number two details that complicate a simple solution. Use your marks to choose evidence for your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the passage explicitly say shade can do at a bus stop? Support your answer with two distinct details from the text.	**A tree canopy blocks some sunlight before it reaches the ground, and shade reduces the sunlight striking a person's skin.**
2	Why might boarding counts alone overlook riders most affected by heat? Support your inference with two details from paragraph 2.	**Counts may miss riders' circumstances: some people using a stop near a clinic cannot stand for long, and counts do not show who waits longer when buses run late.**
3	A planner says planting trees will fix every heat problem at bus stops. Challenge this claim with one piece of evidence from paragraph 1 and one from paragraph 3.	**Paragraph 1 says a young tree takes time to grow large enough to help. Paragraph 3 says shorter waits, which require reliable service, also reduce time spent in the heat.**
4	Why might a photograph of an empty bus stop be insufficient for deciding where to act first? Support your inference with evidence from two different paragraphs.	**A photograph cannot show who waits longer when buses run late, as paragraph 2 explains. It also may not show where a shelter's shadow falls as the sun moves, a concern raised in paragraph 3.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city should first interview riders at stops near clinics and workplaces, then compare their reports with boarding counts and observations of sunlight. Riders at a clinic may have trouble standing for long, and warehouse workers may leave during the hottest part of the day. Counts do not show who waits longer when buses are late, so numbers alone could hide the hardest trips. Where riders need quick relief, a shelter can provide shade sooner than a young tree. Its shadow can shift away from riders, however, so the city should observe the stop at different times of day before choosing its position. Reliable service also matters because shorter waits reduce time spent in the heat.

Accept different defensible inferences when each is supported by the requested number and location of passage details. For the recommendation, check for a clear first step, three relevant details from at least two paragraphs, and a limitation.