Light Where Needed

Trace how an argument responds to safety and cost concerns.

RI.9-10.6 "Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's position, circle two reasons someone might disagree, and give each reason and its matching response the same number.

A Better Kind of Streetlight

(1) At a city meeting, residents argue about the white glow above a new parking lot. Some call it a sign of safety; others miss seeing stars from their porches. I favor changing how outdoor lights shine, not turning them all off. A bare bulb sends light sideways and upward, where it does little to illuminate the pavement. A shielded fixture aims light down at the area people use. That difference matters to people and wildlife: artificial light at night can disrupt the activity of some nocturnal animals. A safer night need not be a brighter sky.

(2) The strongest objection is safety. A pedestrian at a poorly lit crossing can be difficult for a driver to see. That is a real reason to keep useful lighting. Yet a bright, unshielded lamp can also produce glare, making darker areas beyond it harder to see. The question is not whether a street has lights, but whether the light reaches the crossing without shining into drivers' eyes or nearby bedrooms. Cities could direct fixtures downward and test visibility at actual crossings before changing more lamps. If a test reveals a dark spot, add focused light there rather than flood the entire block.

(3) Cost is another serious concern. Replacing every working fixture at once would spend money that a city might need for other repairs. Waiting until lamps wear out could spread the expense, although it would also delay any improvement. Nor should anyone claim that a shield alone solves every problem: a lamp pointed downward can still be too bright or badly placed. A careful plan would begin with a few sites, ask residents about glare, and check whether people can see the walking area. The goal is not darkness for its own sake, but light that does its job without spilling everywhere.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the author favor, and how does the comparison between bare bulbs and shielded fixtures support that view?

2. What safety concern does the author acknowledge? Why does calling it “a real reason” matter to the argument?

3. How does the author respond to the safety concern without arguing for dark crossings?

4. How does the author address the cost of replacing lights, and what limitation of that response does the author admit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Neighbors say the lights at an outdoor basketball court shine into their windows, but players worry about seeing the court clearly. Write five sentences from the author’s point of view that acknowledge the players’ concern, propose a change for this court, and explain how you would check whether it works.

ANSWER KEY

Light Where Needed

HIGH SCHOOL · RI.9-10.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's position, circle two reasons someone might disagree, and give each reason and its matching response the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the author favor, and how does the comparison between bare bulbs and shielded fixtures support that view?	**The author favors directing outdoor light toward areas people use instead of turning all lights off. Bare bulbs send light sideways and upward, while shielded fixtures aim it down.**
2	What safety concern does the author acknowledge? Why does calling it "a real reason" matter to the argument?	**Drivers may have trouble seeing pedestrians at poorly lit crossings. The phrase shows that the author takes the opposing concern seriously rather than dismissing it.**
3	How does the author respond to the safety concern without arguing for dark crossings?	**The author proposes directing light toward crossings, testing visibility, and adding focused light wherever a test reveals a dark spot.**
4	How does the author address the cost of replacing lights, and what limitation of that response does the author admit?	**The author suggests waiting until lamps wear out to spread the expense, while admitting that this would delay improvements.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Players need to see the court clearly, especially when running near its edges. Their concern is a reason to keep useful lighting, not a reason to let light spill into nearby windows. I would try shielded fixtures aimed at the playing surface. Before making the change permanent, I would ask players to test whether they can see the ball and court boundaries at night. I would also ask neighbors whether less light reaches their windows.

Accept answers that identify the author's qualified position and explain how a specific response addresses an opposing concern. For the open task, look for a reasonable safety concession, a court-specific change, and a way to check both visibility and spillover light.