

Style That Explains

Notice how formal language and transitions shape an informative explanation.

6W2.f "Establish and maintain a style appropriate to the writing task."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB READ AND MARK: Underline the one sentence in each paragraph that begins with a transition phrase. Number the three underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how formal transitions organize an explanation.

How City Trees Cool Streets

- ① On hot summer days, city trees do more than make streets look pleasant. Their leaves block some sunlight before it reaches sidewalks, cars, and buildings. In addition, water released from leaves cools the nearby air as it evaporates. This process, called transpiration, can lower surface and air temperatures in shaded places. Because pavement absorbs and stores heat, a row of healthy trees can make a bus stop or playground more comfortable for people nearby during the afternoon.
- ② A tree's cooling effect depends on its size, health, and location. Young trees provide less shade than mature trees because their canopies are smaller. For example, an oak with broad branches may shade a large section of a school yard, while a newly planted sapling shades only a small patch of ground. City planners also consider roots, which need room to grow without damaging sidewalks or pipes. Selecting species that fit a site helps trees survive long enough to provide useful cooling.
- ③ As a result, planting trees is one practical way cities can reduce heat in busy neighborhoods. Trees do not replace other solutions, such as reflective roofs or shaded shelters, but they offer several benefits at once. Their roots can help soil absorb rainwater, and their branches provide habitat for birds and insects. A successful tree program requires regular watering, pruning, and protection from damage. Careful planning gives communities a lasting tool for creating cooler outdoor spaces.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 List the three transition phrases that begin sentences. How does their placement support the passage's formal explanatory style?

2 The passage uses the words "canopies" and "sapling." Why do these precise terms fit this passage better than casual phrases such as "leaf tops" and "baby tree"?

3 Copy the sentence that gives a limitation instead of making an exaggerated claim. How does this sentence make the style more trustworthy?

4 Which sentence creates a formal concluding tone? Explain how it looks ahead to the effect on communities.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

YOUR TURN: Write a four- or five-sentence informational paragraph explaining how a rain garden helps manage rainwater. Use a clear topic sentence, at least one transition phrase, and formal, precise language. Do not use "I" or "you."

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

READ AND MARK: Underline the one sentence in each paragraph that begins with a transition phrase. Number the three underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3 to show how formal transitions organize an explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	List the three transition phrases that begin sentences. How does their placement support the passage's formal explanatory style?	In addition,; For example,; As a result,. They signal added information, an example, and a result, helping readers follow the explanation.
2	The passage uses the words "canopies" and "sapling." Why do these precise terms fit this passage better than casual phrases such as "leaf tops" and "baby tree"?	They are specific, accurate terms for parts and stages of trees. Precise vocabulary creates a formal, informative tone.
3	Copy the sentence that gives a limitation instead of making an exaggerated claim. How does this sentence make the style more trustworthy?	"Trees do not replace other solutions, such as reflective roofs or shaded shelters, but they offer several benefits at once." It gives a balanced claim instead of claiming trees solve every heat problem.
4	Which sentence creates a formal concluding tone? Explain how it looks ahead to the effect on communities.	"Careful planning gives communities a lasting tool for creating cooler outdoor spaces." It ends by connecting planning to a long-term community benefit.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rain gardens are shallow planted areas that collect rainwater from nearby surfaces. During a storm, the garden slows runoff and allows water to soak into the soil. In addition, plant roots help keep the soil from washing away. A well-designed rain garden can reduce the amount of water entering storm drains. Regular care keeps the plants healthy and the area able to absorb water.

Accept answers that identify the stated passage features and explain how they create an organized, formal, balanced informative style. For YOUR TURN, accept accurate four- or five-sentence explanations with a topic sentence, a transition, precise formal wording, and no first- or second-person pronouns.