

Trees With Purpose

Read a formal model for purposeful informative writing.

7W2.f "Establish and maintain a style appropriate to the writing task."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise words or phrases that make the explanation sound informed and formal. Circle two words or phrases that keep the claims careful rather than exaggerated.

Why Cities Need Trees

- ① On a hot afternoon, pavement can make a neighborhood feel warmer than a nearby park. Trees reduce this effect through shade and transpiration, the release of water vapor from leaves. Shade blocks some solar energy before it reaches sidewalks, roofs, and playgrounds. As water vapor evaporates, it carries heat away from leaf surfaces. For this reason, city planners often consider tree cover when designing streets and public spaces. The goal is not simply a prettier view, but a cooler and safer outdoor environment.
- ② Tree canopy also affects the air people breathe. Leaves can trap certain particles that move through the air, although trees do not remove every form of pollution. In addition, shaded buildings may need less air conditioning during warm weather. Using less electricity can lower the demand on power plants, depending on how that electricity is produced. These connected effects show why researchers measure more than temperature when they study urban trees. They examine energy use, air quality, and the places where residents spend time outdoors.
- ③ However, planting a tree is only the first step in a long-term plan. Young trees require water, room for roots, and protection from damage. A species that survives in one climate may struggle in another, so planners select trees that fit local soil, rainfall, and temperatures. They also plan for maintenance, including pruning and replacing unhealthy trees. Careful decisions make tree programs more reliable over time. Instead of promising an instant solution, a well-designed program explains both the benefits of trees and the work needed to sustain them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy one technical term from paragraph 1. How does this precise term help create a formal explanatory style?

2 Why does the phrase “although trees do not remove every form of pollution” fit the style of an informative article?

3 How does the transition “In addition” help organize paragraph 2 in a formal explanatory style?

4 Why does the phrase “Instead of promising an instant solution” suit an informational article better than an advertisement?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 75-100-word, six-sentence informational proposal to your principal about protecting a mature tree during school construction. Use a formal, objective style, include at least two precise effects or facts, and use one transition to connect ideas.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three precise words or phrases that make the explanation sound informed and formal. Circle two words or phrases that keep the claims careful rather than exaggerated. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy one technical term from paragraph 1. How does this precise term help create a formal explanatory style?	Possible answer: "transpiration." It names the scientific process that helps trees cool an area.
2	Why does the phrase "although trees do not remove every form of pollution" fit the style of an informative article?	It qualifies the claim, avoids an overstatement, and keeps the tone accurate and objective.
3	How does the transition "In addition" help organize paragraph 2 in a formal explanatory style?	It introduces another related benefit of trees and connects the ideas logically.
4	Why does the phrase "Instead of promising an instant solution" suit an informational article better than an advertisement?	It acknowledges that tree programs have limits and require ongoing work, which creates a measured, realistic tone.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Protecting the mature oak near the science wing should be part of the construction plan. Its broad canopy shades the sidewalk, which can make the route more comfortable during warm months. The tree also provides habitat for birds and insects. In addition, keeping a healthy existing tree avoids the years of growth required for a newly planted tree to provide similar shade. Construction crews should fence the root area and avoid storing materials there. These steps would protect a useful part of the campus.

Accept different precise terms, qualifications, and explanations when students connect them to a formal, accurate explanatory tone. For the proposal, look for six sentences, 75-100 words, a clear audience and purpose, factual details, a transition, and controlled formal language.