

Why It Matters

Read how a conclusion connects information to its larger significance.

9-10W2e "Provide a concluding statement or section that explains the significance of the information presented."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the conclusion in the third paragraph, then circle three earlier details that the conclusion brings together.

Trees as City Systems

- ① On summer afternoons, pavement can store heat long after the sun begins to set. Street trees help moderate that effect. Their leaves shade sidewalks and building walls, while water released through leaves cools the surrounding air. A 2022 study of Boston neighborhoods found that areas with more tree canopy were generally cooler than nearby blocks with less cover. Trees also intercept rainfall, slowing the rush of water into storm drains. These benefits matter most in dense neighborhoods, where asphalt and concrete leave little open ground.
- ② Planting and maintaining trees requires planning, however. Young trees need regular watering, and roots need enough soil space to grow without damaging sidewalks. City workers must also select species that can tolerate local heat, pests, and winter salt. In Philadelphia, a program called TreePhilly gives residents free yard trees and planting guidance, linking public goals to household care. Such programs cannot replace larger climate policies, but they can improve daily conditions block by block. Their success depends on long-term maintenance, not simply the number of saplings planted each year.
- ③ Urban tree planting is therefore more than a landscaping choice. It is a practical public-health and infrastructure strategy that can lower heat exposure, manage stormwater, and make neighborhoods more livable. The evidence also shows why equitable planning matters: communities with scarce canopy have fewer of these protections. When cities fund trees, soil space, and care together, they invest in safer daily environments, especially where heat and flooding create the greatest risks. Seeing trees as essential city systems, rather than decorations, clarifies why sustained investment matters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence first signals that the writer is moving into the conclusion?

2 Name two benefits from earlier in the passage that the conclusion brings together.

3 How does the conclusion explain why equitable planning matters?

4 Why is the final sentence an effective conclusion instead of a new supporting detail?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a public service or school program you know about. Write four sentences: give two specific pieces of information in the first three sentences, then write a final concluding sentence that explains why the information matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the conclusion in the third paragraph, then circle three earlier details that the conclusion brings together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence first signals that the writer is moving into the conclusion?	"Urban tree planting is therefore more than a landscaping choice."
2	Name two benefits from earlier in the passage that the conclusion brings together.	It brings together lower heat exposure or cooling and stormwater management or slower runoff. It also refers to more livable neighborhoods.
3	How does the conclusion explain why equitable planning matters?	It explains that communities with little tree canopy have fewer protections from heat and flooding.
4	Why is the final sentence an effective conclusion instead of a new supporting detail?	It restates the main idea by framing trees as essential city systems and explains the larger significance, sustained investment. It does not introduce a new example or fact to develop.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Public libraries lend books, magazines, and other materials that people may use without buying them. Many libraries also provide computers and internet access for visitors who need them. Librarians help patrons locate reliable sources and use library resources. By removing cost and access barriers, libraries strengthen learning and participation throughout a community.

Accept conclusions that synthesize the information and explain its importance, effect, or broader implication. For the open response, the final sentence should go beyond repeating a fact and state why the program or service matters.