

Cooler Streets Blueprint

Analyze how an author combines structures to argue for a lasting solution.

11.T.SS.1.b “Blend multiple organizational structures to support and enhance a text’s central message. (C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read this fictional city-planning argument. Underline its central message. In the margins, number and label shifts in organization, such as comparison, cause and effect, problem and solution, sequence or concession.

Shade Is Infrastructure

- ① Imagine a neighborhood with broad asphalt lots, dark roofs and little tree cover beside a district with shaded sidewalks and planted courtyards. Sunlit paved surfaces can become hotter than shaded areas. This contrast suggests why the built environment matters: surfaces absorb solar energy, while vegetation can provide shade and cooling through evaporation. Those mechanisms help explain urban heat, but they do not establish a temperature difference or illness count for this fictional neighborhood. A responsible proposal should investigate local conditions as well as describe possible improvements. Heat protection begins with understanding places.
- ② In this fictional case, the city’s earlier plan focused on emergency advice and access to cooled indoor spaces. Those steps matter, but they do not redesign exposed streets. The new proposal works at two scales. First, it would keep emergency services available and assess where riders need bus-stop shade. Next, it would plan suitable trees and shaded waiting areas, checking maintenance, accessibility and site conditions. Unlike a short-term warning, these changes would address recurring exposure through design. Their results would still need to be assessed after installation.

- ③ Still, the proposal cannot make every block equally comfortable at once. Trees take time to grow, and construction can disrupt traffic and businesses. Yet postponement would also leave exposed waiting areas unchanged. The city should therefore treat useful shade as basic infrastructure rather than decoration. By pairing immediate support with longer-term design, officials can address current needs while improving places for future summers. This is an argument for a combined approach, not a guarantee that one design will eliminate heat risk. A strong plan acknowledges both time scales and its own limits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① What two structures are blended in paragraph 1? Explain how they develop the idea that the built environment matters.

- ② How does the contrast between the old heat plan and the new proposal in paragraph 2 support the author's central message?

- ③ Why does the author use the sequence words "First" and "Next" before the comparison beginning with "Unlike"?

- ④ How does paragraph 3 combine concession with a response to support the central message?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph proposing a change at your school or in your community. Blend at least two organizational structures, such as comparison, cause and effect, problem and solution, or sequence, to develop one clear central message. Underline your central message and label each structural shift in the margin.

Blend structures in one paragraph

Underline your central message and label the structural shifts in the margin. Keep each move in service of the same message.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read this fictional city-planning argument. Underline its central message. In the margins, number and label shifts in organization, such as comparison, cause and effect, problem and solution, sequence or concession. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two structures are blended in paragraph 1? Explain how they develop the idea that the built environment matters.	Comparison contrasts paved, sparsely shaded areas with planted, shaded areas. Cause and effect explains absorption of solar energy and cooling through shade and evaporation. The blend gives reasons to investigate design without inventing a local temperature measurement.
2	How does the contrast between the old heat plan and the new proposal in paragraph 2 support the author's central message?	The old plan provides immediate support; the new proposal also changes exposed places. That contrast supports combining emergency measures with longer-term design.
3	Why does the author use the sequence words "First" and "Next" before the comparison beginning with "Unlike"?	First and Next organize the proposal into stages. Unlike then contrasts that continuing design work with a short-term warning, linking sequence and comparison to the combined approach.
4	How does paragraph 3 combine concession with a response to support the central message?	It concedes slow tree growth and construction disruption, then explains that delay leaves exposed areas unchanged. This supports a combined approach while acknowledging that no single design eliminates all risk.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

[Problem and cause] Our school's buses line up beside the main entrance, so students cross between idling vehicles and breathe exhaust each afternoon. [Comparison] At the west entrance, a marked walking path keeps students away from traffic, but the bus area has no similar route. The school should create a protected path from the bus loop to the sidewalk. [Solution and sequence] First, staff could paint a crossing lane and place cones along it; then the district could install permanent barriers. Because students would have a clear space to walk, the change would reduce confusion and exposure to exhaust.

Accept equivalent identifications of organizational structures when students support them with accurate passage details. For Part 3, accept varied topics if the response has a clear central message and purposefully blends at least two structures. The city case and bus-loop model are illustrative scenarios, not reports of collected local data. The model's central message is actually underlined; bracketed notes label structural moves. General heat mechanisms checked against EPA Benefits of Trees and Vegetation: <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/benefits-trees-and-vegetation>. No numerical temperature difference or health effect is claimed for the fictional city.