

Lights, Flight, Logic

Analyze how an informational text builds a practical claim.

ELA.11.R.2.1 "Evaluate the structure(s) and features in texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that signal a shift in the text's organization, circle three evidence or qualifying details, and number the paragraph roles in the order they develop the writer's message.

When City Lights Meet Migration

- ① **A Nighttime Hazard.** Each spring and fall, billions of birds migrate across North America at night. Many navigate with stars, Earth's magnetic field, and familiar landscape patterns. In cities, however, brightly lit office towers can disrupt that journey. Birds may circle illuminated buildings, collide with glass, or land exhausted on streets below. The danger increases during low clouds or fog, when light reflects through the sky and draws birds closer. This problem is not limited to rare species. Warblers, thrushes, and sparrows, birds people may see in neighborhood trees, can all be affected.
- ② **Evidence and Its Limits.** Research helps explain why a small change can matter. A 2014 study by Scott Loss and colleagues in *The Condor* estimated that collisions with buildings kill between 365 million and 988 million birds in the United States each year, although not every collision involves light. To examine lighting's role, other researchers study collisions alongside building lights, migration and weather. They also use weather radar and migration forecasts to identify evenings when many birds are moving overhead. Together, these methods show why a route can become more hazardous when lights remain on.

- ③ **A Targeted Response.** Because the threat has a clear trigger, responses can be targeted. During peak migration nights, some building managers turn off unnecessary interior and decorative lights after business hours. Programs often called Lights Out pair this step with public migration alerts, so participants know when it matters most. The approach does not eliminate every collision, since glass, weather, and building design also affect birds. Still, reducing unnecessary light can lower one part of the risk. The practice gives institutions and residents a practical step, even while longer-term changes to glass and building design remain important.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① What overall organizational structure does the passage use? Explain how the order of the paragraphs helps develop the writer's message.

- ② Evaluate the three bold headings. How do they guide readers through the argument, and which could be made more specific? Explain your judgment.

- ③ How does the numerical estimate establish the problem's scale? Why does the qualification about lighting matter?

In 75 to 90 words, propose either a different order for the passage's three paragraphs or one feature to add, such as a diagram, chart, or heading. Use at least two details from the passage and evaluate whether your change would strengthen or weaken readers' understanding.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that signal a shift in the text's organization, circle three evidence or qualifying details, and number the paragraph roles in the order they develop the writer's message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What overall organizational structure does the passage use? Explain how the order of the paragraphs helps develop the writer's message.	It moves from the migration problem, to research evidence, to a targeted response with limits. This order helps readers understand the risk before considering an action.
2	Evaluate the three bold headings. How do they guide readers through the argument, and which could be made more specific? Explain your judgment.	They mark the hazard, evidence and response so readers can follow the progression. A Targeted Response could become Reducing Light During Migration to identify the action immediately. Accept other supported evaluations.
3	How does the numerical estimate establish the problem's scale? Why does the qualification about lighting matter?	The estimate shows that building collisions are widespread. It counts collisions from multiple causes, so it cannot show how many deaths turning off lights would prevent. The qualification avoids treating every collision as light-related.
4	Why does the writer place radar and migration forecasts before Lights Out programs? Evaluate the effect of that order.	Readers first learn how high-migration nights can be identified, then see why temporary light reductions and alerts can target those nights. The order connects evidence gathering to a practical response.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Keeping the current order is stronger than opening with the Lights Out response. The first paragraph establishes the nighttime hazard, and the second supplies a national collision estimate plus methods for studying lighting. Those details prepare readers to see why migration alerts and reduced lighting are sensible, targeted actions. I would add a small diagram after paragraph two showing the link from cloudy skies and bright buildings to disoriented birds. That feature could clarify the cause without interrupting the problem-evidence-response progression.

Accept any accurate identification and evaluation of the passage's problem, evidence, and response structure. For Part 3, accept responses of 75 to 90 words that propose a defensible structural or text-feature change, use at least two passage details, and explain the change's effect. The numerical estimate is evidence within prose, not itself a heading or graphic feature. The bold headings are actual printed text features. Source check: Loss et al., Bird-building collisions in the United States, *The Condor* 116(1), 2014, doi:10.1650/CONDOR-13-090.1. The estimate is explicitly historical and covers all building collisions; no current total or lighting-only total is claimed. Cornell Lab/Field Museum research documents lighting, migration and weather as relevant factors.