

Shade on the Street

Evaluate how two writers use the same situation to persuade.

ELA.12.R.3 "Reading Across Genres"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In Text A, underline one appeal to emotion and circle the repeated question pattern. In Text B, underline one appeal to reasoning and circle the final two sentences that develop the seed-and-roots image. Label one timing appeal in each text K.

Shade on the Street - Two Voices Before a Vote

- ① **Shared context - a fictional city.** A council will vote next week on a street-tree pilot. A planning memo proposes twenty trees at stops with little existing shade, a two-year watering contract, and a later review. These are proposed terms, not completed work or measured results. The texts below were written for different audiences before the vote. Judge the persuasiveness of their choices without treating either writer's prediction as established fact. *Kairos* is an appeal based on the timing or occasion of an argument.
- ② **Text A - neighborhood newspaper editorial.** Another summer is nearing, and riders still wait beside bare pavement. Why should a parent carrying groceries have to search for shade? Why should a worker finish a shift only to stand in the sun again? Approve the twenty-tree pilot next week. Young trees will not shade every rider immediately, but delay will not make them grow sooner. The proposed watering contract shows that care is part of the plan, not an afterthought. Residents may ask why only twenty trees. A pilot lets us begin and learn; it need not be the end of our ambition. Give these waiting places a future worth waiting for.

③ **Text B - budget analyst's memo to council members.** Before next week's vote, require a maintenance plan beyond the proposed two-year watering contract. The proposal names twenty trees and two years of watering; it gives us no plan here for who will pay for care after that. Supporters fairly argue that postponement delays growth. Yet approval without an answer may leave a responsibility that future budgets must absorb. I recommend keeping the pilot on the agenda while requiring that missing plan as a condition of approval. A proposal is a seed, not a finished canopy. Give it roots in a durable budget before promising residents shade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

① Compare the writers' positions. What do they agree about, and what different action does each urge before or at the vote?

② Evaluate A's paired questions for newspaper readers. How do pathos and timing work together, and what limit should readers recognize?

③ Evaluate how B combines reasoning and a plant metaphor for council members. Why might these choices fit that audience?

- 4** How do the texts use the same two-year contract differently? Evaluate which use better addresses the concern each writer has chosen.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 120-160 word comparison evaluating which text would be more effective for undecided council members before the vote. Consider the other text's strongest choice. Analyze at least one specific device or appeal in each, including how timing matters. Support your judgment with accurate details and a limitation.

Evaluate across texts

Make a comparative claim, analyze effects on the specified audience, weigh the other writer's approach, and reach a qualified judgment. Naming devices alone is not enough.

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

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In Text A, underline one appeal to emotion and circle the repeated question pattern. In Text B, underline one appeal to reasoning and circle the final two sentences that develop the seed-and-roots image. Label one timing appeal in each text K. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the writers' positions. What do they agree about, and what different action does each urge before or at the vote?	Both treat a tree pilot as worth considering and acknowledge delay. A urges approval next week; B urges a plan for later care as a condition of approval while keeping the pilot on the agenda.
2	Evaluate A's paired questions for newspaper readers. How do pathos and timing work together, and what limit should readers recognize?	Familiar parent and worker scenes invite empathy; the approaching summer and vote add urgency. The pattern may mobilize residents, but imagined scenes and timing do not establish the pilot's costs or immediate shade benefits.
3	Evaluate how B combines reasoning and a plant metaphor for council members. Why might these choices fit that audience?	B identifies a gap between a two-year contract and longer care, then compares a proposal to a seed needing budgetary roots. This translates an obligation into a memorable image for budget decision-makers; the metaphor illustrates rather than proves the cost concern.
4	How do the texts use the same two-year contract differently? Evaluate which use better addresses the concern each writer has chosen.	A treats the contract as evidence that care was considered, fitting its concern about inaction. B treats its limited term as a reason to ask about later costs, fitting fiscal responsibility. Both readings are possible; neither the term alone nor a rhetorical flourish resolves long-term feasibility.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Text B would probably be more effective for undecided council members because it turns the approaching vote into a chance to resolve a defined budget gap. Its reasoning distinguishes the two-year watering contract from the longer care a pilot may require. The seed-and-roots metaphor makes that distinction memorable without claiming to calculate costs. Text A has a strong competing approach: paired questions about a parent and a worker invite sympathy, while the nearing summer makes delay feel consequential. For residents urging action, that combination may be especially effective. However, council members must also weigh future obligations. B acknowledges that waiting delays growth and offers conditional approval instead of abandoning the pilot. Its timely request therefore answers A's urgency while seeking a missing commitment. B still supplies no cost estimate, so its rhetoric supports further planning rather than proving the project affordable.

This Reading Across Genres worksheet targets evaluation across texts, particularly Grade 12 rhetorical choices and audience/occasion fit. Accept either text as more effective if the comparison evaluates specific choices in both and recognizes evidence limits. Pathos and logos are central; kairos appears in the approaching summer/vote and the demand for action before approval. Do not require an ethos label unsupported by the text. All local details and texts are fictional.