Cool City Blueprint

Study how an informational model introduces and organizes solutions.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.2a "Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that previews the plan, circle the two section headings, and draw a box around the table to show how the writer organizes information.

Cooling a City: Trees, Roofs, and Pavement

Streets, roofs and parking lots absorb sunlight, contributing to an urban heat island: a city warmer than nearby rural areas. Planners can add shade with trees, change roofs and redesign paved spaces. The sections below explain how each approach works.

Add Shade

Trees block sunlight and release water vapor, which can help cool the air. Shade helps people at bus stops, playgrounds and walking routes. Young trees need care and time to grow. The table matches two locations with useful first steps.

Improve Surfaces

Light-colored or reflective roofs absorb less sunlight. Planners may also use lighter pavement, permeable pavers and planted areas. These choices work differently: reflective roofs mainly protect buildings, while trees and planted spaces can cool people nearby. Space, cost and local needs influence the choice. These categories help readers compare options before planning.

LOCATION | BEST FIRST STEP

Location	Best first step
Wide parking lot	Plant rows of trees
Sunny bus stop	Add a shade tree or shelter

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the introduction present, and what three approaches does it preview?

2. How do the two section headings divide the solutions into broader categories?

3. According to the table, what is the best first step for a sunny bus stop?

4. Why is the table useful to a reader? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a practical school improvement topic. Write a two-sentence introduction that names the topic and previews two categories, then add two headings and a two-row table that helps readers compare a choice. Write the full article on separate paper; use the table here to plan or record its supporting information.

ITEM	HELPFUL ACTION

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · W.8.2a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that previews the plan, circle the two section headings, and draw a box around the table to show how the writer organizes information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the introduction present, and what three approaches does it preview?	**It presents ways to reduce the urban heat island effect: add shade with trees, change building roofs, and redesign paved spaces.**
2	How do the two section headings divide the solutions into broader categories?	**"Add Shade" groups tree-based shade solutions. "Improve Surfaces" groups solutions involving roofs and pavement.**
3	According to the table, what is the best first step for a sunny bus stop?	**Add a shade tree or shelter.**
4	Why is the table useful to a reader? Use evidence from the passage.	**It helps readers match a solution to a specific location or place.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reducing cafeteria waste can save resources and keep food scraps out of landfills. Our school can improve sorting stations and plan portions more carefully.

Sorting Stations
Clear signs show students where to place compost, recycling, and trash.

Portion Planning
Serving choices can reduce unopened food.

ITEM	HELPFUL ACTION
Unopened packaged food	Share through an approved food-share table
Fruit peels and leftovers	Collect for compost

Accept answers that accurately identify the introduction, categories, and table purpose using passage evidence. For the open task, check for a clear topic, a preview of two categories, matching headings, and a table with two useful comparison rows.