A Case for Shade

Trace how a speaker builds a clear proposal for an audience.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.4 "Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the speaker's main claim, number the two reasons in the order they are presented, and underline the evidence that supports a reason. These marks show how the speaker helps listeners follow the proposal.

Three Trees for the Blacktop

1. Good afternoon, principal and student council. I am proposing that our school add three shade trees near the blacktop. At lunch, many students eat or wait for games in direct sun. Shade would make that area more comfortable during warm months. My plan is not only about comfort. It is a practical way to protect students from too much sun while improving a space that nearly everyone uses. Here is why this change deserves attention.

2. First, trees can lower surface and air temperatures by blocking sunlight and releasing water vapor. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that shade from trees can reduce temperatures in nearby areas. Our blacktop absorbs heat, so a shaded edge could give students a cooler place to stand. Second, trees offer a long-lasting benefit. Unlike a temporary canopy, healthy trees can provide shade for many years and also create habitat for birds and insects near school grounds.

3. To make this plan workable, the student council could ask the grounds manager to suggest safe planting spots. Then the council could estimate the cost of young trees and seek help from a local garden group. I know the school must balance many needs, so I am asking for a small first step, not a major project. Please consider adding three trees this year. This choice addresses the heat students feel now and gives our school a cooler, greener gathering place later.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the speaker asking the principal and student council to do?

2. How does the speaker organize the two main reasons for the proposal?

3. What source-based evidence does the speaker use, and which reason does it support?

4. How does the speaker make the request sound practical for the school audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write notes for a 45-second proposal to improve a school space: claim, two ordered reasons, one specific observation or detail from the supplied passage, and a realistic request. Deliver it aloud to a partner acting as the school audience. Your listener then restates the claim, reasons and evidence in order and names one unclear point. Clarify that point and deliver the proposal again. Record the feedback below. Teacher: arrange partners and observe whether the reasoning and language suit the audience.

ANSWER KEY # A Case for Shade

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.SL.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the speaker's main claim, number the two reasons in the order they are presented, and underline the evidence that supports a reason. These marks show how the speaker helps listeners follow the proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the speaker asking the principal and student council to do?	**Add three shade trees near the blacktop.**
2	How does the speaker organize the two main reasons for the proposal?	**The speaker gives the cooling benefit first, then explains that trees provide long-lasting shade and habitat.**
3	What source-based evidence does the speaker use, and which reason does it support?	**The speaker cites the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's explanation that tree shade can reduce nearby temperatures. It supports the reason that trees can make the blacktop area cooler.**
4	How does the speaker make the request sound practical for the school audience?	**The speaker suggests safe planting spots, estimating costs, seeking help from a local garden group, and starting with only three trees.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sample speaker notes: I propose adding a water refill station near the gym. First, it would make water easier to reach before and after exercise. Second, it could reduce disposable bottles. During our last practice, players walked down the hall to refill bottles. Please ask the facilities team to examine a location near the gym. Sample listener feedback: I could follow the two reasons, but I needed to know which practice supplied your observation. The speaker clarifies that detail on the second delivery. Learners use their own real observation or identify a supplied-passage detail.

Accept the original source-supported claim, reasons, EPA attribution and practical-step answers. For Part 3, observe an actual spoken proposal and second delivery: a listener can restate the claim, ordered reasons and relevant evidence; the request, organization and language fit the school audience; the speaker clarifies feedback. Check the evidence against the learner's identified observation or supplied text. Notes and a hypothetical delivery plan alone do not complete the task; 45 seconds is an approximate length, not a speed score.