Beyond Open Doors

Trace how two claims shape an argument about public libraries.

11-12.RI.2 "Determine two or more central ideas or claims of a text. Analyze and evaluate their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another within a complex text..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two central claims, circle a detail supporting each, and number the places where the writer complicates or connects the claims.

When a Library Becomes a Cooling Center

(1) On a sweltering afternoon, a public library can offer more than books. Its air-conditioned rooms, drinking water, and open doors make it a possible refuge for people whose homes remain dangerously hot. Unlike a store, a library does not require visitors to buy anything. That makes libraries useful partners in a city's response to extreme heat, especially when residents need a place to sit for several hours. Yet a building that is cool at noon may be closed by evening. Calling a library a cooling center does not, by itself, guarantee protection when heat persists after dark.

(2) Access also depends on who can reach the building and what happens once they arrive. A person who cannot afford bus fare, encounters an out-of-service elevator, or must travel with a young child may face barriers that an open door cannot remove. Staff may need training to recognize heat illness, while longer hours require pay and security. Those needs can compete with reading programs, research help, and the quiet space regular patrons expect. The claim that libraries offer shelter therefore leads to a harder claim: a cooling center works only if a city invests in access and staffing.

(3) Some cities might respond by assigning every library the same extended hours. But a uniform schedule could spend money on branches far from the people most exposed to heat while leaving transportation gaps untouched. A stronger plan would examine local travel routes, neighborhood needs, and staff capacity before choosing which branches stay open later. It would also provide other options when libraries close, rather than treating them as the entire safety network. Libraries can be valuable public shelters, but that value depends on coordinated choices beyond the library doors. The two claims strengthen each other: the promise of free refuge explains why practical access deserves attention.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two central claims does the passage develop? Give one supporting detail for each.

2. How does paragraph 2 complicate the idea introduced in paragraph 1?

3. How does paragraph 3 connect the two claims? Evaluate one limit of the support it gives for its proposed plan.

4. Write a two-sentence objective summary that shows how the passage's ideas build on one another.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 110 word editor's note about the passage. Begin with a one-sentence objective summary, then identify a claim that needs stronger evidence and propose specific evidence that would test how the two claims work together.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond Open Doors

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.RI.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two central claims, circle a detail supporting each, and number the places where the writer complicates or connects the claims. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two central claims does the passage develop? Give one supporting detail for each.	**Libraries can offer free refuge from heat, as visitors need not buy anything. Effective shelter also requires access and staffing, as travel barriers and longer hours can prevent or limit use.**
2	How does paragraph 2 complicate the idea introduced in paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 1 presents libraries as useful free refuges but notes their limited hours. Paragraph 2 shows that an open building may still be inaccessible and that expanding its role requires resources that can compete with library services.**
3	How does paragraph 3 connect the two claims? Evaluate one limit of the support it gives for its proposed plan.	**The promise of free refuge gives cities a reason to address access, staffing, and gaps after closing. The plan is reasoned but offers no local travel or usage data to show which branches need extended hours.**
4	Write a two-sentence objective summary that shows how the passage's ideas build on one another.	**The passage presents libraries as free places to escape extreme heat, then explains how hours, transportation, and staffing can limit their usefulness. It concludes that cities should plan library hours and other shelter options around local needs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The passage argues that libraries can provide free relief during extreme heat, but their usefulness depends on access, staffing, and a broader city plan. The claim about access needs stronger evidence because the passage identifies possible barriers without showing how often they prevent residents from using particular branches. A city could compare travel times to libraries in different neighborhoods and survey residents about when they need shelter after libraries close. Those findings would test whether free indoor space reaches people who need it and whether longer hours or other shelters would close the gaps.

Accept other accurate formulations of the two claims and other specific evidence proposals. The editor's note should distinguish what the passage argues from what its evidence establishes.