Shade and Structure

Trace how sentence structure connects an argument's major ideas.

11-12.W.2.c "Use appropriate and varied syntax to fluently link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three paragraphs, underline the opening sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3, and circle the words or clauses in those sentences that show how each new section relates to the one before it.

Where Should the Shade Go?

1. At a bus stop on a hot afternoon, two people may stand only a block apart yet experience different conditions: one waits beneath a tree, while the other faces unbroken pavement. Leaves block some sunlight, and trees release water vapor that can cool the surrounding air. Asphalt and concrete, by contrast, absorb and hold heat. That difference matters beyond comfort. People who walk or wait for buses cannot always retreat indoors, and prolonged exposure to high heat can threaten health. Planting street trees therefore seems like a practical way to make a city safer, especially along routes used every day.

2. Yet the shade that makes trees attractive also comes with limits: a young sapling offers little immediate relief, and roots need room beneath the sidewalk. In dry places, some species may require irrigation, which can strain limited water supplies. Even a mature tree helps most where its shade actually falls; one planted beside an empty lot may do less for pedestrians than one beside a crowded stop. These limits do not cancel the benefits described above. Rather, they shift the question from whether a city should plant trees to where, which kinds, and how they will be cared for.

3. Because placement and maintenance shape the benefits, a city could begin by mapping walking routes and asking residents where heat makes daily travel difficult. Planners might then compare sites: Is there enough soil for healthy roots? Will the canopy shade people at the hours they use the street? Residents' reports can reveal busy places that a map of tree cover alone might miss. Still, choosing a site is only the beginning; watering, pruning, and replacing failed trees require long-term funding. By linking residents' experience with practical care, a planting plan can turn scattered trees into reliable public shade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening sentence of paragraph 2 connect the benefits in paragraph 1 to the limits that follow?

2. In paragraph 2, how does the sentence beginning “Rather, they shift the question” move the argument forward?

3. How does the opening clause of paragraph 3 make the planning steps that follow a response to paragraph 2?

4. What ideas does the final sentence bring together, and what result does it connect to them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 85 to 105 words about whether a public library should extend its evening hours. Explain a potential benefit, a practical constraint, and a workable response; use varied sentence structures and clear transitions to show how the ideas connect.

ANSWER KEY

Shade and Structure

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.W.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three paragraphs, underline the opening sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3, and circle the words or clauses in those sentences that show how each new section relates to the one before it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening sentence of paragraph 2 connect the benefits in paragraph 1 to the limits that follow?	**"Yet" signals a contrast, while "the shade that makes trees attractive" recalls the benefit before introducing limits.**
2	In paragraph 2, how does the sentence beginning "Rather, they shift the question" move the argument forward?	**Its "from whether" and "to where" structure shifts the focus from deciding if trees help to planning their location, species, and care.**
3	How does the opening clause of paragraph 3 make the planning steps that follow a response to paragraph 2?	**"Because placement and maintenance shape the benefits" gives the reason for mapping routes, consulting residents, and comparing sites.**
4	What ideas does the final sentence bring together, and what result does it connect to them?	**It brings together residents' experience and practical care, connecting both to reliable public shade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A library that stays open later could give students and shift workers a quiet place to study, use computers, or borrow books after daytime obligations. Yet longer hours would also require staff time and money for lighting and security. Rather than opening every branch late each night, the library could first test two evenings a week at a branch near bus service. If attendance stays low, the schedule could change; if it grows, the library would have evidence for expanding the program. By matching access to a manageable trial, the plan addresses demand without ignoring cost.

Accept other accurate explanations that identify the relationship each sentence creates, not just its transition word. For Part 3, look for a benefit, a constraint, and a response linked through varied sentence structures.