Cooling the City

Follow how transitions connect a problem, possible solutions, and trade-offs.

11-12.WHST.2.c "Use appropriate and varied transitional words, phrases, and clauses to 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 Underline the phrases that link one paragraph's main idea to the next. Circle two transitions within paragraphs, then label each one in the margin as a contrast or an addition.

Where the Heat Stays

1 On a hot afternoon, a bus stop beside a wide parking lot can feel harsher than a nearby shaded park. Dark pavement absorbs sunlight and later releases heat into the surrounding air. Buildings and roads also replace soil and plants, which would otherwise help cool the area through shade and evaporation. As a result, dense neighborhoods can stay warm well after sunset, when residents might expect relief. By contrast, streets with mature trees often offer cooler places to walk or wait. These differences matter most to people who must work outdoors or cannot easily escape the heat indoors.

2 To address this problem, cities can plant trees along sidewalks and near transit stops. Leaves block some sunlight before it reaches pavement; water released from leaves can also cool the air. Meanwhile, light-colored roofs reflect more sunlight than dark roofs, reducing the heat buildings absorb. Although both approaches can lower exposure to heat, they work in different places and on different schedules. A roof coating may change a building's surface quickly, whereas a newly planted tree needs years to provide substantial shade. Planning must therefore match each tool to the places where people face the greatest heat.

3 Even so, choosing a cooling strategy involves more than finding the hottest street. Trees need room for roots, regular care, and water, especially while they become established. Roof coatings, in turn, require access to buildings and money for installation. Rather than spreading improvements evenly across a map, officials can examine where residents walk, wait for buses, or lack reliable indoor cooling. They can also ask residents which routes and gathering places matter most. In the long run, a city must maintain what it installs; otherwise, a promising project may offer less protection than its initial plan suggests.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does “To address this problem” refer to, and what new section does it introduce?

2. How does “Even so” connect the third paragraph to the solutions in the second paragraph?

3. What two approaches does “Meanwhile” connect in the second paragraph? What relationship does it show?

4. How does “Rather than” change the way officials might decide where to make improvements?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school problem other than outdoor heat. In one paragraph of 80 to 110 words, explain its cause, propose a response, and weigh one limitation; use and underline at least three different transitions that connect these ideas.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the phrases that link one paragraph's main idea to the next. Circle two transitions within paragraphs, then label each one in the margin as a contrast or an addition. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem does "To address this problem" refer to, and what new section does it introduce?	**It refers to heat around paved, built-up areas and introduces ways cities can reduce exposure to that heat.**
2	How does "Even so" connect the third paragraph to the solutions in the second paragraph?	**It signals that, despite the possible benefits of trees and light-colored roofs, choosing and maintaining them involves practical limits.**
3	What two approaches does "Meanwhile" connect in the second paragraph? What relationship does it show?	**It connects planting trees with using light-colored roofs, presenting the roofs as another approach to cooling.**
4	How does "Rather than" change the way officials might decide where to make improvements?	**It contrasts spreading improvements evenly with placing them where people walk, wait, or lack reliable indoor cooling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When students take milk they do not drink, unopened cartons can end up in the trash after lunch. To reduce this waste, the cafeteria could set up a supervised share table for unopened, safely stored items. Meanwhile, a weekly count of discarded cartons would show whether the amount of waste changes. Although a share table could keep usable food in circulation, it would need clear handling rules to protect food safety. For that reason, staff should check local health requirements before starting it. Ultimately, tracking waste and following those rules would help the school judge whether the plan works.

For the marking job, accept paragraph links such as "To address this problem" and "Even so," and correctly labeled contrasts or additions within paragraphs. For Part 3, look for an accurate cause, a response, a limitation, and at least three underlined transitions that clarify relationships among them.