

Shade Builds Cities

Analyze how different text structures build one central claim.

8.8.D.iii “multiple organizational patterns within a text to develop the thesis;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the thesis. In the margin, label the main organizational pattern in each paragraph, and circle words or phrases that signal each pattern.

Why Cities Need Trees

- ① On a July afternoon, a city block with little shade can feel far hotter than a nearby park. Pavement and dark roofs absorb sunlight, then release heat slowly after sunset. This heat can make walking, waiting for buses, and cooling homes harder, especially for older adults and young children. Cities should expand and protect their tree canopies because trees reduce dangerous heat, improve daily life, and offer benefits that built surfaces cannot provide as effectively.
- ② Trees cool streets in several ways. Their leaves block some solar radiation before it reaches sidewalks and walls. They also release water vapor through transpiration, a process that can cool the surrounding air. In contrast, a bare parking lot has no leaves or water vapor, so it stores more heat. Researchers and planners therefore often compare shaded and unshaded areas when deciding where new trees could help most. A mature canopy also creates cooler routes for people traveling on foot.
- ③ Planting alone is not enough, however. First, city staff can map neighborhoods with high temperatures and few trees. Next, they can select species that fit local rainfall, soil, and power lines. Residents can help water young trees, while crews prune and inspect them as they grow. This step-by-step plan addresses the heat problem before trees are planted and helps them survive afterward. By combining evidence about the problem with a practical solution, cities can build cooler, more livable neighborhoods over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the thesis of the passage?

2 Which organizational pattern is mainly used in paragraph 1? Explain how its details support the thesis.

3 What two places or conditions does paragraph 2 compare, and what does the comparison show?

4 How does the step-by-step structure in paragraph 3 develop the thesis?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two short paragraphs proposing one improvement for your school. State a clear thesis in the first sentence, use cause and effect in one paragraph and problem and solution or comparison in the other, then label each pattern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the thesis. In the margin, label the main organizational pattern in each paragraph, and circle words or phrases that signal each pattern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the thesis of the passage?	Cities should expand and protect their tree canopies because trees reduce dangerous heat, improve daily life, and offer benefits that built surfaces cannot provide as effectively.
2	Which organizational pattern is mainly used in paragraph 1? Explain how its details support the thesis.	Paragraph 1 mainly uses cause and effect. Pavement and roofs absorb and release heat, causing streets and homes to be harder to use and cool, which supports the need for trees.
3	What two places or conditions does paragraph 2 compare, and what does the comparison show?	It compares shaded areas with trees to a bare parking lot. The comparison shows that trees cool areas by blocking sunlight and releasing water vapor, while bare pavement stores more heat.
4	How does the step-by-step structure in paragraph 3 develop the thesis?	It gives a practical sequence for mapping hot areas, choosing suitable trees, and caring for them. The sequence shows how cities can successfully use trees to solve the heat problem.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cause and Effect: Our school should install refill stations near the gym and cafeteria. When students bring reusable bottles, they can fill them quickly instead of buying bottled drinks. Fewer disposable bottles would enter trash cans, and students could stay hydrated during the day. Problem and Solution: Many students leave class to find a working fountain, which wastes learning time. Refill stations with filters and bottle-height spouts would provide a dependable place to get water. Placing stations in busy areas would solve this problem and support the proposal.

Accept equivalent wording for the thesis and for the organizational patterns when students support their choices with accurate passage details. For Part 3, look for a clear proposal, a thesis in the first sentence, and two correctly used and labeled organizational patterns.