Shade Plan Debate

Compare how three authors draw conclusions about urban tree planting.

10.RI.3.B "Analyze multiple texts addressing the same topic to determine how authors reach similar or different conclusions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the conclusion in each text. Circle the details each author uses to reach that conclusion, then number the three conclusions 1, 2, and 3.

Can Trees Cool a City?

(1) Text 1, a city health newsletter, argues that planting more street trees is a practical response to dangerous summer heat. The writer points to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency information showing that shaded surfaces can be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces. The newsletter also notes that trees cool nearby air through shade and evaporation from leaves. From these points, the author concludes that the city should expand its tree canopy along busy sidewalks, at playgrounds, and near transit stops, where people spend time outdoors during hot afternoons.

(2) Text 2, an environmental justice report, also supports planting trees, but it reaches a narrower conclusion. Its author maps neighborhoods with little canopy and compares them with places where summer temperatures are higher and residents have fewer resources. The report argues that a citywide total can hide unequal benefits if new trees are placed mainly in already leafy areas. Because the evidence emphasizes location, the author concludes that planting plans should first serve blocks with the least shade and the greatest heat exposure. The report treats fairness, not just the number of trees, as the measure of success.

(3) Text 3, a water-utility brief, agrees that trees can lower heat, yet it warns against treating tree planting as the only solution. The brief explains that young trees need regular watering while their roots become established, a challenge during drought restrictions. It recommends selecting species suited to local rainfall and pairing trees with other cooling measures, such as shade structures and reflective roofs. Using these practical limits, the author concludes that the city should build a mixed heat plan rather than promise that every street can be cooled by trees alone. Unlike the first two authors, this writer weighs water use and maintenance alongside shade.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What similar conclusion do Texts 1 and 2 reach? How are their specific recommendations different?

2 What evidence does the author of Text 2 use to reach a conclusion about where trees should be planted?

3 How does Text 3 reach a different conclusion from Text 1, even though both recognize that trees can cool an area?

4 Which author is most concerned with fairness in the distribution of tree benefits? Explain how that concern shapes the author's conclusion.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In exactly four sentences, compare the conclusions of Texts 2 and 3. Explain how each author uses different evidence or concerns to reach that conclusion.

ANSWER KEY

Shade Plan Debate

GRADE 10 · 10.RI.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the conclusion in each text. Circle the details each author uses to reach that conclusion, then number the three conclusions 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What similar conclusion do Texts 1 and 2 reach? How are their specific recommendations different?	**Both support planting trees to address heat. Text 1 calls for broad tree-canopy expansion near outdoor spaces, while Text 2 says the first plantings should go to the least shaded, most heat-exposed blocks.**
2	What evidence does the author of Text 2 use to reach a conclusion about where trees should be planted?	**The author uses maps showing low canopy, higher summer temperatures, and fewer resources. This evidence leads to prioritizing hotter neighborhoods with the least shade.**
3	How does Text 3 reach a different conclusion from Text 1, even though both recognize that trees can cool an area?	**Text 3 considers watering young trees during droughts, suitable species, and maintenance. These limits lead the author to recommend a mixed cooling plan instead of relying on trees alone.**
4	Which author is most concerned with fairness in the distribution of tree benefits? Explain how that concern shapes the author's conclusion.	**The author of Text 2 is most concerned with fairness. The author concludes that planting should begin in neighborhoods with the least shade and greatest heat exposure.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Texts 2 and 3 agree that tree planting requires careful planning. Text 2 uses maps of canopy, heat, and resources to focus on unequal exposure. It concludes that the least shaded, hottest blocks should receive trees first. Text 3 emphasizes drought watering and maintenance, so it calls for trees plus other cooling measures.

Accept comparisons of any two texts if students accurately state each conclusion and connect it to relevant evidence or concerns. For Part 3, responses should include four sentences, a clear comparison, and accurate support from both Texts 2 and 3.