

Evidence With Roots

Trace how a model argument uses authoritative evidence for a public audience.

10.W.1.A.iii "Write extended pieces that: Develop the topic through sustained use of the most significant and relevant facts, concrete details, quotations, or other information from multiple authoritative sources appropriate to the audience's knowledge."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact or concrete detail that supports the recommendation. Circle the source named for each fact, then number the details that show why the evidence matters to city council members.

A Cooler City Plan

- ① For city council members considering a summer heat plan, planting and protecting street trees should be a central step. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that shaded surfaces, such as pavement, may be 20 to 45°F cooler than unshaded materials at peak temperatures. Trees also cool air through evapotranspiration, the release of water vapor from leaves. This evidence matters to residents walking to bus stops, working outdoors, or waiting in school pickup lines. A heat plan should therefore place trees where people spend time outside, not simply add them to distant parks.
- ② The U.S. Forest Service shows why placement can matter as much as planting. It reports that trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air-conditioning needs by 30 percent. In a neighborhood with little canopy, a city could begin along transit corridors, beside apartment buildings, and on school sidewalks. Those locations connect the evidence to people who wait, walk, or live near hot pavement. The plan should also fund watering and pruning during dry months. A total number of seedlings would not tell council members whether trees will survive or cool the routes and buildings that residents use most.
- ③ Together, the two federal sources support a focused policy rather than a symbolic tree campaign. The EPA provides a measurable reason to create shade, while the Forest Service connects careful placement to lower cooling needs. The examples of bus stops, apartment buildings, and school sidewalks make the proposal understandable for council members who must choose where public money goes. They also keep the argument centered on daily exposure to heat. By including maintenance, the writer recognizes that a newly planted tree is not an instant solution. The recommendation remains practical because it links evidence, locations, and a continuing responsibility.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What action does the writer recommend, and who is the intended audience for the recommendation?

2 Name one fact from the EPA and one fact from the U.S. Forest Service that support the recommendation.

3 Why does the writer mention bus stops, apartment buildings, and school sidewalks instead of only discussing parks?

4 How does the detail about watering and pruning strengthen the writer's argument?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a local school or community issue other than street trees. Write a 190-220 word recommendation for a decision-making audience that names at least two authoritative sources, uses at least three relevant concrete facts or details, includes one short quotation, and explains a specific action the audience should take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each fact or concrete detail that supports the recommendation. Circle the source named for each fact, then number the details that show why the evidence matters to city council members. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the writer recommend, and who is the intended audience for the recommendation?	The writer recommends planting and protecting street trees in places people use outdoors. The intended audience is city council members considering a summer heat plan.
2	Name one fact from the EPA and one fact from the U.S. Forest Service that support the recommendation.	The EPA says shaded pavement may be 20 to 45°F cooler than unshaded material at peak temperatures. The U.S. Forest Service reports that properly placed trees can reduce air-conditioning needs by 30 percent.
3	Why does the writer mention bus stops, apartment buildings, and school sidewalks instead of only discussing parks?	These locations show where residents regularly face heat and help council members see where tree placement could directly benefit people.
4	How does the detail about watering and pruning strengthen the writer's argument?	It shows that the plan includes maintenance, so trees can survive and continue cooling the routes and buildings residents use.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To the School Board: Our district should move high school start times to 8:30 a.m. next year and adjust bus routes before making other schedule changes. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools begin at “8:30 a.m. or later” because adolescents need 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep each night. A start time that requires students to wake before dawn conflicts with that health guidance, especially for students who ride long bus routes or work after school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2017 that 72.7 percent of U.S. public high schools began before 8:30 a.m. during the 2013-14 school year. Our district does not have to follow that pattern. The CDC also explains that insufficient sleep in high school students is associated with health risks and poorer academic performance. These findings make later starts an educational issue, not merely a convenience. Begin with one high school for a semester, publish attendance and first-period tardiness data, and survey students and families about sleep and transportation. Then compare those results with the costs of revised bus schedules. This careful pilot would let the board protect learning and health while making a decision based on local evidence.

Accept answers that accurately connect the EPA and U.S. Forest Service evidence to the proposed tree policy and its city council audience. For Part 3, accept varied issues and actions when the response meets the word count and uses relevant, credible evidence from two named authoritative sources.