

Heat Plan Debate

Compare conclusions and the reasoning behind them.

11.RI.3.A “Analyze information within and between paired passages for similar and conflicting ideas and how authors reach similar or different conclusions.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each author’s conclusion, circle the evidence or reasoning that supports it, and write S beside one shared idea and D beside one conflicting idea. Use your marks to compare how the authors reach their conclusions.

Two Plans for Cooler Cities

- ① Passage A, “Shade Where People Walk” During heat waves, paved neighborhoods can remain warmer than nearby parks after sunset. Urban planner Lila Chen argues that cities should place more trees along bus stops, sidewalks, and routes to schools. She cites a 2023 temperature survey in which shaded pavement in her city measured lower surface temperatures than adjacent unshaded pavement on summer afternoons. Chen does not claim that trees solve every heat risk. Instead, she concludes that street-tree programs are a practical first defense because they cool places residents must cross each day.
- ② Chen also emphasizes timing and maintenance. Newly planted trees take years to develop broad canopies, so she recommends protecting mature trees while planting young ones. Her proposal directs limited funds toward neighborhoods with little existing shade and high pedestrian use. This reasoning joins an observation about unequal exposure to heat with a policy choice about where to invest. Chen’s conclusion depends on the idea that a city should reduce daily heat exposure first, even if other projects might lower temperatures in different locations as well.
- ③ Passage B, “Cool Roofs, Faster Results” Environmental engineer Mateo Ruiz agrees that heat harms people in heavily paved areas, but he reaches a different priority. He argues that cities should begin by coating large, dark roofs with reflective materials. Because roofs cover extensive surfaces, Ruiz says a citywide program can reduce absorbed solar energy without waiting for trees to grow. He acknowledges that reflective roofs do not provide sidewalk shade or improve a street’s appearance. Still, he concludes that they deserve first funding because they can be installed quickly and can cool buildings where residents live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem do both authors identify, and what similar goal do they share?

2 How do Chen's and Ruiz's conclusions conflict?

3 Explain how Chen reaches her conclusion. Use two details from Passage A.

4 How does Ruiz use a limitation of reflective roofs to shape, rather than weaken, his argument?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence comparative paragraph that explains the authors' shared concern, each author's conclusion, and the reasoning behind each conclusion. In the fourth sentence, judge which plan would better meet pedestrians' immediate needs, using evidence from the passages.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each author's conclusion, circle the evidence or reasoning that supports it, and write S beside one shared idea and D beside one conflicting idea. Use your marks to compare how the authors reach their conclusions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem do both authors identify, and what similar goal do they share?	Both identify harmful heat in heavily paved areas. Both want cities to reduce residents' heat exposure.
2	How do Chen's and Ruiz's conclusions conflict?	Chen says street trees should receive first priority, while Ruiz says reflective roofs should receive first funding.
3	Explain how Chen reaches her conclusion. Use two details from Passage A.	Chen uses the lower temperature of shaded pavement and the need to protect pedestrians in low-shade, high-use neighborhoods. She reasons that cities should reduce daily exposure where people travel.
4	How does Ruiz use a limitation of reflective roofs to shape, rather than weaken, his argument?	He admits that roofs do not shade sidewalks or improve streets' appearance, then argues that their quick installation and ability to cool buildings still make them the first funding priority.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both authors want cities to reduce dangerous heat in paved neighborhoods. Chen argues for street trees because shade cools routes that residents must walk and because investment can target areas with little shade. Ruiz favors reflective roofs because they can be installed quickly across large surfaces and cool buildings. For pedestrians' immediate needs, Chen's plan is stronger because it directly provides shade at sidewalks, bus stops, and school routes.

Accept equivalent statements of the shared concern, the conflicting priorities, and the evidence each author uses. For the open response, accept either judgment if it is supported with accurate passage details and follows the required four-sentence structure.