# A Case for Shade

Trace a claim from evidence to a practical recommendation.

**6.RI** "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from grade-level complex informational texts read. Key Ideas and Confirming Details Summarize texts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the report's main claim, circle details that support it, and put an X beside the claim the passage says is unsupported, so you can trace how evidence builds an argument.

### Cooling a Hot Campus

1 On a July afternoon, the parking lot behind Mesa Middle School can feel much hotter than the nearby playground. Science teacher Mr. Alvarez asked students to measure surface temperatures at both places. The black pavement reached 128°F, while grass under a cottonwood tree measured 86°F. Their investigation introduced a question for the school board: Could more trees make the campus safer and more comfortable during hot weather? The students began collecting evidence before suggesting a plan of action.

2 Their report made a clear claim: planting shade trees near paved areas would reduce heat exposure. To support it, students cited research showing that tree canopies block some sunlight and that leaves release water vapor, which can cool surrounding air. They also mapped the campus and found that students waited for buses beside the hottest pavement. One student said, "My backpack burned my arm last August." This anecdote illustrated how the temperature data could affect people.

3 Next, the report compared possible solutions. Adding a covered bus shelter would protect one waiting area, but trees could shade walkways, benches, and classroom windows as they grew. The students admitted that young trees need water and care, so they recommended drought-tolerant native species and a watering schedule. A board member claimed that trees always lower a school's costs immediately. The report did not support that statement with evidence. By ending with a practical plan and limits, the authors aimed to persuade the board to test the idea responsibly.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a summary of the report's main idea. Include the students' recommendation and at least two ways the report develops it.

2. How is the idea of planting trees introduced in paragraph 1, illustrated in paragraph 2, and elaborated in paragraph 3?

3. Which claim is not supported by evidence in the passage? Explain why it is unsupported.

4. How does the organization of paragraph 3 help convey the authors' purpose?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence recommendation to the school board about reducing heat on campus. State a claim, use two specific details from the passage as evidence, and acknowledge one limit or need the plan would have.

ANSWER KEY

# A Case for Shade

GRADE 6 · 6.RI

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the report's main claim, circle details that support it, and put an X beside the claim the passage says is unsupported, so you can trace how evidence builds an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Write a summary of the report's main idea. Include the students' recommendation and at least two ways the report develops it. | **The report argues that the school should plant shade trees near paved areas to reduce heat exposure. It develops this idea with temperature measurements, research about how trees cool areas, a map of hot bus-waiting spaces, and a practical watering plan.** |
| 2 | How is the idea of planting trees introduced in paragraph 1, illustrated in paragraph 2, and elaborated in paragraph 3? | **Paragraph 1 introduces the heat problem through temperature measurements and a question. Paragraph 2 illustrates the idea with research, a campus map, and a student's anecdote. Paragraph 3 elaborates it by comparing trees with a bus shelter and explaining care for young trees.** |
| 3 | Which claim is not supported by evidence in the passage? Explain why it is unsupported. | **The claim that trees always lower a school's costs immediately is unsupported. The passage directly says the report gives no evidence for that statement.** |
| 4 | How does the organization of paragraph 3 help convey the authors' purpose? | **The paragraph compares two solutions, admits that trees need care, and gives a response to that problem. This balanced structure helps the authors persuade the board that the plan is practical and responsible.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school board should plant drought-tolerant native shade trees near the bus area and paved walkways. Pavement behind the school reached 128°F, while grass under a cottonwood measured 86°F, and students wait beside the hottest pavement. Young trees need water and care, so the school should use a watering schedule as the trees grow.

Accept summaries and explanations that accurately identify the tree-planting claim and connect it to relevant evidence from the passage. For the open response, accept different recommendations if they include a clear claim, two accurate passage details, and one stated limit or need.