Shelter Matters

Analyze purpose, perspective, and meaning in an argument about transit stops.

7.RI.2.C "Analyze how an author's purpose(s) reflects the author's perspective (e.g., beliefs, assumptions, biases) and influences the meaning of an informational text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline claims that show what the author wants readers to believe, circle details that reveal the author's beliefs about riders, and number three details that support the author's argument.

More Than a Stop

1. At many bus stops, riders wait beside a sign with no roof, bench, or shade. On sunny days, pavement near uncovered stops can become far hotter than the air. This problem matters most to people who cannot easily choose another ride, including students, older adults, and workers without cars. Heat can cause discomfort, dehydration, and other health concerns, especially during long delays. A bus system should not treat a basic wait as an endurance test for riders.

2. Some transit leaders say shelters are expensive and cannot fit on every sidewalk. Those limits are real, but they should guide smart planning, not excuse inaction. Cities can begin with stops that have high ridership, little tree cover, and long transfer waits. A simple roof can block direct sun and rain, while a bench gives riders a place to rest. These changes make public transportation more usable, not merely more attractive for everyone who depends on it.

3. Funding agencies often measure a project by the number of new miles of track or road it creates. That approach can overlook the trip before a passenger boards. If a rider must stand in intense heat or heavy rain, a fast bus route may still feel unreliable. The best transit investments connect speed with dignity. By placing shelters where need is greatest, officials show that riders' time, safety, and comfort count in public decisions along with construction totals.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the author want transit officials to do? How does that purpose shape the details included in the passage?

2. What belief about public transportation does the author reveal? Use one phrase from the passage as evidence.

3. Why does the author mention that shelters can be expensive and may not fit on every sidewalk? What does the phrase “not excuse inaction” reveal about the author’s perspective?

4. How does the final paragraph’s focus on miles of track or road influence the meaning of the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences for a transit newsletter that explain how the author’s purpose and perspective shape the passage’s meaning. Use two different short quotes from the passage and explain what each quote shows.

ANSWER KEY

Shelter Matters

GRADE 7 · 7.RI.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline claims that show what the author wants readers to believe, circle details that reveal the author's beliefs about riders, and number three details that support the author's argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the author want transit officials to do? How does that purpose shape the details included in the passage?	**The author wants officials to prioritize bus shelters, especially where riders need them most. The passage emphasizes heat, rain, long waits, and riders without other transportation choices to support that goal.**
2	What belief about public transportation does the author reveal? Use one phrase from the passage as evidence.	**The author believes public transportation should provide riders with dignity, safety, and comfort, not only transportation. Evidence includes "connect speed with dignity" or "riders' time, safety, and comfort count."**
3	Why does the author mention that shelters can be expensive and may not fit on every sidewalk? What does the phrase "not excuse inaction" reveal about the author's perspective?	**The author acknowledges a possible objection to seem realistic about limits. The phrase shows the author believes costs and space limits should lead to careful planning, not prevent cities from adding shelters.**
4	How does the final paragraph's focus on miles of track or road influence the meaning of the passage?	**It contrasts construction totals with riders' actual experiences. This makes the passage argue that a successful transit system should be judged by how well it serves people, not only by how much it builds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The author seeks to persuade transit officials to add shelters, especially at stops with greater need. The phrase "not excuse inaction" shows the author believes cost should not prevent practical improvements. Calling a basic wait an "endurance test" makes the passage mean that rider comfort and safety are central parts of reliable transportation.

Accept responses that identify the author's persuasive purpose and the perspective that transit should serve riders safely and fairly. Students should support analysis with accurate passage evidence and explain how that evidence shapes the text's message.