

Plan With Purpose

Trace how a clear thesis guides each paragraph.

7.W.2.A.ii "Generate and organize ideas using the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing) to develop multi-paragraph texts. This includes: Establishing a central idea that aligns with the thesis and maintains an organized structure to..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the thesis in paragraph 1, circle each later paragraph's topic sentence, and number the supporting-detail sentences after each topic sentence to show how the text stays organized around one idea.

Shade for the Schoolyard

- ① Adding shade trees to a schoolyard can make outdoor spaces safer and more useful. On sunny days, pavement and playground equipment absorb heat, while trees block some sunlight. Their leaves also release water vapor, which can cool the air nearby. For these reasons, a school should plant and care for trees around places where students walk, play, and wait. This change would support comfort, safety, and learning outdoors during much of the school year for students.
- ② First, shade can reduce students' contact with hot surfaces. The U.S. National Weather Service warns that pavement can become much hotter than the air in direct sun. Trees placed beside blacktop play areas, benches, and pickup lines can shade these spots at the hottest times of day. School staff should consider where shade falls during different seasons before planting. Placing trees near the busiest areas makes the project solve the heat problem where students need help most.
- ③ Second, planting trees works only if the school plans for their care. Young trees need regular water until their roots are established, especially during dry weather. A gardening club, staff members, or community volunteers could share jobs such as watering, mulching, and checking for damage. Choosing native or well-adapted species can also help trees survive local conditions. With a practical care plan, the new trees can provide shade for many years instead of becoming a short-lived project.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What thesis does the writer establish in paragraph 1?

2 What is the main focus of paragraph 2? Name two schoolyard locations the writer says could be shaded.

3 What new focus does paragraph 3 add, and how does it support the thesis?

4 Describe the job of each paragraph in order. How does this order help the text stay focused?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a different improvement for your school, such as a water-bottle filling station, bike racks, or a reading corner. Write a three-paragraph proposal with a thesis in paragraph 1, one well-focused reason in paragraph 2, and a second well-focused reason or plan in paragraph 3, including at least two concrete details in each body paragraph.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the thesis in paragraph 1, circle each later paragraph's topic sentence, and number the supporting-detail sentences after each topic sentence to show how the text stays organized around one idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What thesis does the writer establish in paragraph 1?	A school should plant and care for trees around places where students walk, play, and wait.
2	What is the main focus of paragraph 2? Name two schoolyard locations the writer says could be shaded.	Paragraph 2 focuses on reducing contact with hot surfaces. The writer names blacktop play areas, benches, and pickup lines.
3	What new focus does paragraph 3 add, and how does it support the thesis?	It adds a plan for caring for young trees. Care helps the trees survive and provide shade for many years.
4	Describe the job of each paragraph in order. How does this order help the text stay focused?	Paragraph 1 introduces the problem and states the claim. Paragraph 2 explains where shade is needed, and paragraph 3 explains how trees can be cared for. The order builds support for the claim that the school should plant and care for trees.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a composting program to the cafeteria. It would turn some lunch waste into useful material and teach students how everyday choices affect the environment. Fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and napkins without plastic coatings could go into clearly labeled green bins. Student helpers could check bins after lunch and remove wrappers or utensils, keeping the compost materials clean. Custodians could collect the filled bins and place the scraps in a secured outdoor compost container. When the material breaks down, the school garden could use the finished compost to improve soil and help plants grow.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the thesis, paragraph focuses, and organizational roles. For the writing task, look for a clear thesis, three focused paragraphs, logical order, and at least two relevant concrete details in each body paragraph.