# Shade With Purpose

Analyze how evidence and opposing views shape an informational argument.

**8.RI.2.C** "Analyze how an author establishes and conveys a perspective or purpose in a text and acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the planners' main position and the evidence that supports it. Circle each concern or opposing view, then number the response that addresses each concern.

### Trees in Hot Neighborhoods

1 On summer afternoons, a city block with few trees can feel much hotter than a nearby shaded street. Trees cool sidewalks by blocking sunlight and by releasing water vapor through their leaves. For this reason, many city planners argue that planting and protecting street trees should be a public priority. Their goal is not simply to make neighborhoods prettier. They want to reduce heat exposure, especially for people who walk, wait for buses, or live in buildings without reliable air conditioning.

2 Supporters point to evidence from several kinds of studies. Satellite images can show which neighborhoods have the least tree cover, while temperature sensors record hotter pavement and air in many of those same places. Health researchers have also linked extreme heat to greater risk of illness and death. Planners use this evidence to argue that tree planting can improve public health. They often focus on lower-income areas, where residents may have less access to parks, shade, and cool indoor spaces.

3 Still, planting trees is not a quick or cost-free fix. A young tree provides less shade than a mature one, and it needs water, pruning, and protection from damage. Some residents worry that roots can crack sidewalks or that dense branches can block streetlights. Planners respond that cities can select suitable species, leave room for roots, and budget for long-term care. They also note that ignoring hot, treeless blocks has costs, including higher energy use and danger during heat waves. The evidence does not make every plan wise, but it supports investment in trees.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What perspective do the planners present about street trees, and what is their purpose for presenting it?

2. Identify two kinds of evidence the author includes. How does this evidence support the planners' perspective?

3. What concerns do some residents raise about tree planting? How do planners respond to those concerns?

4. How does the final sentence show that the author acknowledges a limit while still supporting the main perspective?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence paragraph arguing for or against a school or community proposal. Make your perspective clear, include one relevant piece of evidence, acknowledge one opposing view, and respond to that view.

ANSWER KEY

# Shade With Purpose

GRADE 8 · 8.RI.2.C

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the planners' main position and the evidence that supports it. Circle each concern or opposing view, then number the response that addresses each concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What perspective do the planners present about street trees, and what is their purpose for presenting it? | **They present street trees as a public priority. Their purpose is to support planting and protecting trees to reduce heat exposure and improve public health.** |
| 2 | Identify two kinds of evidence the author includes. How does this evidence support the planners' perspective? | **The author includes satellite images of low tree cover, temperature-sensor records of hotter areas, and health research on extreme heat. This evidence links treeless areas and extreme heat to health risks, supporting tree planting.** |
| 3 | What concerns do some residents raise about tree planting? How do planners respond to those concerns? | **Residents worry that roots can crack sidewalks and branches can block streetlights. Planners say cities can choose suitable species, leave room for roots, and plan for long-term care.** |
| 4 | How does the final sentence show that the author acknowledges a limit while still supporting the main perspective? | **It admits that not every tree-planting plan is wise, but it maintains that the evidence supports investing in trees.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add covered bike racks. Many students who ride bikes leave them exposed to rain, and covered racks could protect bikes and encourage cycling. Some people may say the racks cost money and use space. The school could begin with a small rack near an entrance and review whether students use it.

Accept responses that accurately identify the planners' pro-tree perspective, supporting evidence, concerns, and responses. For Part 3, accept varied proposals if all four required parts are present and the response to the opposing view is logical.