

The Case for Shade

Trace how a public speaker builds trust, reason, and feeling.

9.RI.2.C "Analyze how authors use rhetorical devices to create ethos, logos, and pathos and impact the reader."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that build the speaker's credibility, circle facts or numbers used as evidence, and put a heart beside two sentences that appeal to feelings. In the margin, write E, L, or P next to each mark to show how it may affect a reader.

Testimony for Cooler Streets

- ① Members of the Riverton Council, I am Dr. Elena Ruiz, a pediatric nurse who has cared for children in this city for twelve years. During heat waves, I have watched families arrive at our clinic tired, dizzy, and worried because their apartments stayed hot through the night. I support planting shade trees along bus routes and near playgrounds. My experience does not make every policy simple, but it shows me who bears the cost when public spaces offer no relief from summer heat each year.
- ② The proposal is practical, not decorative. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that shaded surfaces can be 20 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded surfaces. Trees also intercept rainfall, which can reduce stormwater runoff. Riverton's public works report lists 18 bus stops without nearby shade, and many riders wait there during the hottest afternoon hours. Planting trees will require planning, watering, and maintenance, yet those costs should be weighed against cooler sidewalks, safer waiting areas, and less water rushing into drains after heavy storms.
- ③ Picture a ninth grader stepping off a crowded bus onto pavement that seems to radiate heat. Picture an older neighbor carrying groceries with no shaded place to pause. Are these the streets we want for people who cannot choose a cooler route? Trees will not solve every heat problem, but they are a lasting, visible step. I ask the council to fund a tree plan this fall, beginning with the 18 uncovered bus stops. Let us build streets that protect riders, welcome children, and give every neighbor room to breathe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which words or details in paragraph 1 establish the speaker's ethos? Explain how they affect the reader.

2 Identify two facts or numbers from paragraph 2 that create logos. How do they support the speaker's claim?

3 What rhetorical device begins paragraph 3? Explain how it creates pathos.

4 How does the sentence "Trees will not solve every heat problem" affect the speaker's argument and ethos?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word message to a decision maker that argues for one improvement at your school or in your community. Use one detail that builds ethos, one accurate fact or number for logos, and a rhetorical question or vivid image for pathos, then make a clear request.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that build the speaker's credibility, circle facts or numbers used as evidence, and put a heart beside two sentences that appeal to feelings. In the margin, write E, L, or P next to each mark to show how it may affect a reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which words or details in paragraph 1 establish the speaker's ethos? Explain how they affect the reader.	The speaker identifies herself as a pediatric nurse who has cared for local children for twelve years and describes seeing families at her clinic. These details present her as experienced and trustworthy.
2	Identify two facts or numbers from paragraph 2 that create logos. How do they support the speaker's claim?	The EPA detail that shaded surfaces can be 20 to 45 degrees cooler and the report of 18 unshaded bus stops provide measurable evidence that trees could make waiting areas cooler.
3	What rhetorical device begins paragraph 3? Explain how it creates pathos.	The repetition of "Picture" creates vivid images of a student and an older neighbor in the heat. It encourages readers to feel concern for people who need shade.
4	How does the sentence "Trees will not solve every heat problem" affect the speaker's argument and ethos?	It admits a limit to the plan, making the speaker sound balanced and reasonable. This strengthens the credibility of her request for tree planting.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As a member of our school's student health council, I have surveyed classmates about access to drinking water between classes. The results showed that 37 of 50 students wanted a refill station near the gym. That number is a reason to act, but so is the sight of thirsty students passing a broken fountain after practice. Should athletes have to search the building for water? Please approve a refill station this year. It would give students a dependable place to fill reusable bottles and would reduce the pile of single-use bottles in our trash cans.

Accept other defensible examples of ethos, logos, and pathos if students explain the device's effect on readers. For the open response, check for a clear claim, all three appeals, and a specific request within the required word count.