Planning for Shade

Notice how an argument opens with context, a claim, and a roadmap.

9.W.1.A.i "Write extended pieces that: Introduce a topic clearly by providing context, presenting well-defined theses, and previewing what follows."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the first paragraph, underline the context, circle the thesis statement, and number the three solutions named in its preview to see how an effective introduction prepares readers for the essay.

Cooling a Hotter City

1 On a July afternoon, a city block with dark pavement can feel far hotter than a nearby park. Asphalt and rooftops absorb sunlight, while limited tree cover provides little shade or cooling through evaporation. This urban heat island effect matters most for residents who wait for buses, work outdoors, or live in buildings without reliable air conditioning. To make neighborhoods safer during hotter summers, city governments should expand tree canopies, install cool roofs, and create shaded public spaces. These steps would lower temperatures, protect health, and make daily travel more comfortable.

2 Tree canopies are a practical first investment. Leaves block some solar radiation before it reaches sidewalks and walls, and trees release water vapor that helps cool surrounding air. Their benefits are not shared equally, however. In many cities, neighborhoods shaped by past disinvestment have fewer trees and more heat-absorbing surfaces. Planting and maintaining trees in these areas can reduce unequal exposure to extreme heat. Because young trees need years to grow, officials should pair long-term planting plans with immediate shade structures at transit stops, playgrounds, and busy sidewalks.

3 Cool roofs can complement shade projects where trees cannot be planted quickly. A roof coated with a reflective material absorbs less solar energy than a dark conventional roof, which can reduce indoor temperatures and lower cooling costs. Cities can begin with public schools, libraries, and affordable housing, where improvements may benefit many people. Shaded plazas and covered walkways offer another direct solution by giving people safer places to rest or travel during hot hours. Together, these strategies show why heat planning should combine lasting environmental changes with protections residents can use now.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Identify two details from the first paragraph that give readers context before the thesis.

2. What is the thesis statement in the first paragraph?

3. What three solutions does the thesis preview?

4. How do the second and third paragraphs follow the preview in the thesis?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word opening paragraph for an argumentative extended piece about one change your school should make. Give relevant context, state a clear thesis, and preview two or three reasons you will develop.

ANSWER KEY

Planning for Shade

GRADE 9 · 9.W.1.A.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the first paragraph, underline the context, circle the thesis statement, and number the three solutions named in its preview to see how an effective introduction prepares readers for the essay. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two details from the first paragraph that give readers context before the thesis.	**Any two: dark pavement can feel hotter than a park; asphalt and rooftops absorb sunlight; limited tree cover provides little shade or cooling; the heat island effect affects people waiting for buses, working outdoors, or lacking reliable air conditioning.**
2	What is the thesis statement in the first paragraph?	**To make neighborhoods safer during hotter summers, city governments should expand tree canopies, install cool roofs, and create shaded public spaces.**
3	What three solutions does the thesis preview?	**Expanding tree canopies, installing cool roofs, and creating shaded public spaces.**
4	How do the second and third paragraphs follow the preview in the thesis?	**Paragraph 2 develops tree canopies and immediate shade structures. Paragraph 3 develops cool roofs and shaded public spaces such as plazas and covered walkways.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many high school students arrive before they are fully alert, then spend their first classes fighting fatigue. Research on adolescent sleep suggests that teenagers' body clocks often shift later during puberty, making very early schedules especially difficult. Our school should begin classes thirty minutes later because a later start could improve students' focus, support healthier sleep habits, and make morning travel safer. The following sections will examine classroom learning, student well-being, and transportation concerns to show why this change is worth planning carefully.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the passage's context, thesis, preview, and paragraph structure. For the open response, accept varied school changes if the paragraph is 80 to 100 words and clearly includes context, a specific claim, and a preview of supporting points.