Evidence for Shade

Trace how authoritative sources build a focused public recommendation.

9.W.1.A.iii "Write extended pieces that: Develop the topic through sustained use of the most significant and relevant facts, concrete details, quotations, or other information from multiple authoritative sources appropriate to the audience's knowledge."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each source name, then underline one concrete fact from each source that supports the tree-planting recommendation. Number the three underlined facts from most to least important for the city council.

Where City Trees Matter Most

1. On a hot afternoon, a shaded sidewalk can feel far more usable than a bare one. City tree planting is not only about appearance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that pavement and roofs absorb heat, creating urban heat islands. Trees cool nearby spaces by shading surfaces and by releasing water vapor through their leaves. This evidence matters because extreme heat can endanger people who walk, wait for buses, or lack air conditioning. For a city council considering new plantings, cooling is a relevant starting point, but it is not the only reason to invest.

2. Rain creates another practical reason to protect a tree canopy. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service states that urban trees intercept rainfall on leaves and branches, reducing the water that reaches streets and storm drains at once. Their roots also help water soak into soil. This information is especially useful in neighborhoods where heavy rain regularly floods intersections or basements. A proposal should not promise that trees will prevent every flood. Instead, it can accurately argue that trees are one part of a larger drainage plan, alongside maintained drains and permeable ground surfaces.

3. Choosing where to plant requires evidence about people as well as land. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that heat can cause illness and death, and it identifies older adults, young children, and people with certain health conditions as groups at greater risk. That guidance strengthens the Environmental Protection Agency's explanation of hot pavement and roofs. Together, the sources suggest a focused plan: prioritize shade near bus stops, schools, and senior housing in the hottest parts of a city. The Forest Service evidence adds a second benefit, since those trees can also slow runoff. Using these sources keeps the recommendation specific rather than decorative.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two sources most strongly support planting trees in the hottest parts of a city? State the relevant fact from each source.

2. What Forest Service detail makes trees relevant to flooding, and what limit does the passage place on that benefit?

3. What recommendation in paragraph 3 combines information from more than one source? Explain how the sources work together.

4. For a paragraph arguing for shade at senior housing, which passage fact is most directly relevant, and why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80-to-100-word recommendation to a city parks director about planting trees along a route you choose. Use at least two sources named in the passage, include three concrete facts, and explain why those facts matter for your location.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence for Shade

GRADE 9 · 9.W.1.A.iii

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each source name, then underline one concrete fact from each source that supports the tree-planting recommendation. Number the three underlined facts from most to least important for the city council. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two sources most strongly support planting trees in the hottest parts of a city? State the relevant fact from each source.	**The Environmental Protection Agency explains that pavement and roofs absorb heat, creating urban heat islands. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that heat can cause illness and death and that some groups, including older adults and young children, face greater risk.**
2	What Forest Service detail makes trees relevant to flooding, and what limit does the passage place on that benefit?	**The Forest Service says trees intercept rainfall on leaves and branches and their roots help water soak into soil. The passage says trees cannot prevent every flood and should be part of a larger drainage plan.**
3	What recommendation in paragraph 3 combines information from more than one source? Explain how the sources work together.	**The passage recommends prioritizing trees near bus stops, schools, and senior housing in the hottest areas. EPA evidence explains why those paved areas become hot, and CDC evidence shows why heat is especially dangerous for vulnerable people.**
4	For a paragraph arguing for shade at senior housing, which passage fact is most directly relevant, and why?	**The CDC fact that older adults are at greater risk from heat is most directly relevant because it connects the need for shade to the people who live at senior housing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plant trees along the walk from Eastside Apartments to the public library. The Environmental Protection Agency explains that pavement and roofs absorb heat, so shade would make this mostly paved route safer during hot weather. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that heat can cause illness and that older adults face greater risk, which matters because many residents walk to the library. The U.S. Forest Service adds that leaves and branches intercept rainfall, reducing water reaching drains. These trees would provide useful shade and help with puddles near the entrance.

Accept recommendations that name at least two passage sources, use at least three accurate concrete facts, and clearly connect the evidence to a chosen location. The response should stay within 80 to 100 words and make a focused recommendation rather than list unrelated facts.