

Argumentative Reading: Evaluating Claims, Evidence & Reasoning



Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the argumentative editorial below. Evaluate how effectively the author structures their primary claim, substantiating evidence, and counterclaim rebuttal.

Restoring the Urban Jungle: Why Cities Must Embrace Rewilding

Original practice scenario with an invented survey and illustrative numbers. These are not verified municipal research findings.

This original practice passage uses an invented survey and illustrative numbers; these are not findings from a real municipal study.

For decades, municipal city planning prioritized sterile concrete surfaces and manicured monoculture lawns that require gallons of chemical pesticides. However, modern environmental science demonstrates that urban rewilding—restoring native plant corridors, rooftop wildflower gardens, and mini-forests—is an urgent ecological and civic necessity.

First, urban vegetation directly mitigates the 'urban heat island effect.' Dark asphalt roads and brick rooftops absorb heat, raising inner-city temperatures up to 7°F higher than nearby countryside. Introducing dense native flora naturally shades pavements and releases cool moisture through evapotranspiration.

Skeptics often argue that rewilding creates unruly, messy aesthetics that degrade property values. Yet the writer offers a hypothetical economic claim: an invented survey in this practice scenario suggests that tree-lined, biodiverse streetscapes boosted pedestrian commercial activity by 18% and increased residential satisfaction. Far from creating unkempt wilderness, intentional urban rewilding harmonizes human architecture with sustainable ecological resilience.

1. What is the author's PRIMARY CLAIM in this argumentative essay?

- A. Cities should replace all roads and pedestrian walkways with thick, untamed swamps.
- B. Urban rewilding with native vegetation is a vital necessity to lower urban temperatures and revitalize cities.
- C. Monoculture grass lawns are the cheapest and most environmentally friendly landscape design.
- D. Chemical pesticides should be manufactured in higher quantities for city parks.

2. Which piece of evidence from paragraph 2 best supports the scientific reason that vegetation reduces the 'heat island effect'?

- A. Lawns require excessive gallons of synthetic chemical fertilizers.
- B. Native plants provide physical shade and cool surrounding air through evapotranspiration.
- C. Asphalt absorbs moonlight during nighttime hours.
- D. Rewilding reduces municipal expenditure on park maintenance.

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3. How does the author respond to the counterclaim that rewilding degrades city aesthetics and commercial value?

- A. By insulting the critics and ignoring their economic concerns.
- B. By citing an invented survey in the practice scenario claiming that green streetscapes boosted commercial activity by 18%.
- C. By arguing that money and economy do not matter in city planning.
- D. By agreeing that property values will decline but accepting it as necessary.