More Than Grass

Trace how an argument develops a claim and answers an objection.

10.CL.9 "Compose both short and extended narrative, informative/explanatory, and argumentative writings that are clear and coherent, use an appropriate command of language, and demonstrate development, organization, style..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim, circle three transitions that connect ideas, and number two supporting reasons in the order they appear. Use your marks to trace how the argument develops.

A Better Use for One Patch of Lawn

(1) At many schools, a wide strip of grass beside the parking lot looks tidy but serves little purpose. Students do not play there, and a mower must cross it again and again during the growing season. A school could use a small part of that strip differently. It should replace one unused section of lawn with a garden of plants native to the local area. This change would create habitat while keeping the fields students need for sports. The question is not whether every patch of grass should disappear. It is whether an unused patch can do more.

(2) First, native flowering plants can offer pollen and nectar to local pollinators, while their stems and leaves can provide shelter for other insects. A garden with several species that bloom at different times could offer these resources across more of the growing season. Second, replacing grass on that patch would reduce the area the grounds crew needs to mow. That does not mean the garden would care for itself: young plants need water, and weeds need to be removed. Still, once the plants are established, the school could spend less time mowing that particular space and more time caring for it as habitat.

(3) Some students might argue that the grass strip should stay open for games or club events. That concern matters where people actually use the space. However, the proposal targets a strip beside a parking lot, not a playing field, and leaves the rest of the lawn available. The school could start with one small section and ask students to help choose plants suited to the site's sunlight and soil. In short, a limited conversion respects both practical needs and ecological ones: it protects space for play while turning unused ground into a more useful place for insects.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the writer propose? How does limiting the change to one unused section help support the claim?

2. How does the detail about plants blooming at different times strengthen the first reason?

3. What does the transition “Second” signal? What new reason follows it?

4. What objection does the writer answer? How does that response support the conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one argumentative paragraph proposing a change to a shared space you know. Include a clear claim, two distinct reasons, a response to one reasonable objection, and a conclusion. Use at least two transitions.

ANSWER KEY

More Than Grass

GRADE 10 · 10.CL.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim, circle three transitions that connect ideas, and number two supporting reasons in the order they appear. Use your marks to trace how the argument develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the writer propose? How does limiting the change to one unused section help support the claim?	**The writer proposes replacing one unused section of lawn with native plants. The limit preserves playing fields and makes the proposal more practical for the school.**
2	How does the detail about plants blooming at different times strengthen the first reason?	**It explains how a garden with several species could provide resources for pollinators across more of the growing season.**
3	What does the transition "Second" signal? What new reason follows it?	**It signals another supporting reason: replacing part of the lawn would reduce the area the grounds crew needs to mow.**
4	What objection does the writer answer? How does that response support the conclusion?	**Some students might want the strip kept for games or events. The writer answers that the proposed site is not a playing field and other lawn remains available, supporting the conclusion that the change can protect play space while creating habitat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our community center should add a clearly marked bottle-refill station near the gym entrance. First, people leaving practice could refill reusable bottles without waiting at the crowded lobby fountain. Second, a station close to the gym would make water easier to reach during busy events. Some visitors might worry that installation would cost too much. However, the center could begin with one unit and compare bids before spending money. The center would still need to clean and maintain it. In short, a single well-placed station could improve access to drinking water without committing the center to a larger project.

Accept other accurate explanations grounded in the passage. For the writing task, look for two distinct reasons, a fair objection and response, at least two transitions, and a conclusion that follows from the argument.