The Last Switch

Read and mark an argument built with reasons and evidence.

4.LF.37 "Write an argument to persuade the reader to take an action or adopt a position, using an introduction, logical reasoning supported by evidence from relevant sources, and linking words to connect their argument to the evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's request, number the two reasons, circle linking words that connect ideas, and box each named source to see how the argument is built.

A Lights-Out Check

1. Dear Principal, please ask each class to turn off its lights when the room is empty. Last Tuesday, I walked past our classroom during lunch and saw the lights shining on empty desks. A simple plan could help: the last student in line could check the switch, and the teacher could make sure the lights are off before leaving.

2. This change would save electricity. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, turning off lights when they are not needed can save energy. Because an empty room does not need light for reading or work, leaving its lights on uses electricity without helping anyone. A quick switch check before lunch and specials would make the plan easy to follow.

3. Saving electricity also helps protect our environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that making electricity can release gases that warm Earth. Therefore, using less electricity can lower those emissions. Some lights should stay on for safety when people are inside, but empty classrooms do not need them. Please start a lights-out check when classes leave so our school saves energy without changing anyone's lessons.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What action does the writer ask the principal to take at the start of the argument?

2. Which source supports the reason that the plan would save electricity? What does that source say?

3. How does the word “Because” help connect the writer's ideas in the second paragraph?

4. How does the writer use evidence from the Environmental Protection Agency to support the request?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph persuading your family to switch off lights in empty rooms at home. Begin with your request, give two reasons backed by evidence from the named sources in the passage, and use linking words to connect each reason to its evidence.

ANSWER KEY

The Last Switch

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.37

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's request, number the two reasons, circle linking words that connect ideas, and box each named source to see how the argument is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the writer ask the principal to take at the start of the argument?	**Ask each class to turn off its lights when the room is empty.**
2	Which source supports the reason that the plan would save electricity? What does that source say?	**The U.S. Department of Energy says turning off lights when they are not needed can save energy.**
3	How does the word “Because” help connect the writer's ideas in the second paragraph?	**It connects the fact that an empty room needs no light to the reason that leaving its lights on wastes electricity.**
4	How does the writer use evidence from the Environmental Protection Agency to support the request?	**The agency says making electricity can release gases that warm Earth. The writer reasons that using less electricity can lower those emissions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our family should switch off lights whenever a room is empty. This habit saves electricity because the U.S. Department of Energy says that turning off lights when they are not needed can save energy. It can also help protect the environment because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that making electricity can release gases that warm Earth. We can check the switch each time we leave a room.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the sources. For Part 3, look for a request aimed at the family, two supported reasons, and linking words that show how the evidence supports each reason.