The Refill Case

Read a speech and examine how its choices build an argument.

6.CL.5 "Evaluate the development of central and supporting ideas in recorded or live presentations by examining the speaker's rhetorical choices regarding point of view, purpose, anecdotes, and figurative, connotative, and technical word meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main request, circle the personal story, and write 1 and 2 beside two word choices that strengthen the speaker's case.

A Station Near the Gym

1 Good morning, principal and classmates. Last Tuesday, I watched my friend Mina reach into her backpack after soccer practice. She had forgotten her reusable bottle, and the closest fountain had a line. She bought a bottle of water, drank it, and dropped the empty plastic bottle into the trash. I am not blaming Mina. I have done the same thing. When getting water at school is hard, a single-use bottle can seem like the easiest choice. I believe our school should add a bottle-filling station near the gym.

2 A bottle-filling station lets you hold a reusable bottle under a spout and fill it quickly. Its flow rate, the amount of water it releases in a set time, matters when several students are waiting. A station with a steady flow rate near the gym could help students refill between practice and the bus. Each refill could replace a bottle that might otherwise be bought and thrown away. At the end of a game, the trash bin can look like a mountain of throwaway bottles.

3 Of course, a station would cost money, and someone would need to keep it clean. We could begin with one station and ask the custodial team what care it would need. That plan does not solve every problem with trash, but it gives students another choice at a busy place. A bottle bought for one drink becomes trash; a reusable bottle can come back tomorrow. Principal, please consider a station near the gym so a quick refill, not a quick purchase, becomes our usual habit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the story about Mina help the speaker make the case for a bottle-filling station?

2. What does "a mountain of throwaway bottles" suggest to listeners, and how does it support the speaker's main idea?

3. Why does the speaker explain "flow rate" when describing how a station could help students?

4. How does admitting that a station would cost money and need cleaning strengthen the speaker's final request?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences that could be added to this speech. Invent a new school moment, use one figurative phrase, and show how the moment supports a bottle-filling station near the gym.

ANSWER KEY

The Refill Case

GRADE 6 · 6.CL.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main request, circle the personal story, and write 1 and 2 beside two word choices that strengthen the speaker's case. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the story about Mina help the speaker make the case for a bottle-filling station?	**Mina buys water because she forgot her bottle and the fountain has a line. Her story shows why students may choose single-use bottles when refilling is inconvenient.**
2	What does "a mountain of throwaway bottles" suggest to listeners, and how does it support the speaker's main idea?	**"Mountain" makes the amount of trash seem large, while "throwaway" stresses how briefly the bottles are used. Together, the words make another way to get water seem worth considering.**
3	Why does the speaker explain "flow rate" when describing how a station could help students?	**Flow rate tells listeners how quickly water comes out. Explaining it helps show why a station could be useful when students have little time between practice and the bus.**
4	How does admitting that a station would cost money and need cleaning strengthen the speaker's final request?	**The speaker acknowledges practical concerns, then proposes starting with one station and asking about its care. This makes the request more realistic.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before a basketball game, I saw students wait for the fountain while their coach called them to the court. The line was a knot that kept them from a quick refill. A bottle-filling station near the gym could help them fill reusable bottles and reach the game on time.

Accept other supported interpretations of the speaker's choices. For Part 3, look for three sentences with a new, believable moment, figurative language, and a clear link to the proposed station.