Waste With Purpose

Analyze how a model argument builds a claim with evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1 "Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main claim. Circle facts or examples that support the claim, and number the reasons that connect the evidence to the claim.

Why Our School Should Compost

1. Our school should place compost bins beside the cafeteria trash cans. Each lunch day, students throw away banana peels, apple cores, and other food scraps. These scraps do not need to go to a landfill. In a compost bin, tiny organisms break down food and turn it into nutrient-rich material. The finished compost can help gardens hold water and support plant growth. A compost program would turn part of our daily waste into a useful resource.

2. Some people worry that compost bins would smell bad or attract pests. That problem can be reduced by using bins with lids and by emptying them often. Our cafeteria already has adults who supervise sorting for recycling, so they could help students place scraps in the correct bin. Students could also post simple picture signs above the bins. These steps address the concern without giving up the benefits of composting. Therefore, the school should test the program for one month.

3. A one-month test would let the school judge the idea with real evidence. During the test, cafeteria workers could weigh the food scraps collected each day. Garden club members could record how much compost is made later, while office staff could note the cost of bins and collection. At the end of the month, the principal could compare the amount of waste diverted with the program's cost. This fair test would help leaders decide whether to continue, improve, or stop the program.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. What fact from the first paragraph supports the claim that composting is useful?

3. How does the author respond to the concern that compost bins could smell bad or attract pests?

4. How would weighing food scraps and recording program costs help the principal make a decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short argument explaining whether the school should continue a compost program after the one-month test. State a clear claim, use at least two relevant details from the passage as evidence, and address one possible concern.

ANSWER KEY

Waste With Purpose

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.W.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim. Circle facts or examples that support the claim, and number the reasons that connect the evidence to the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	**The school should place compost bins beside the cafeteria trash cans and test the program for one month.**
2	What fact from the first paragraph supports the claim that composting is useful?	**Tiny organisms can break down food scraps into nutrient-rich material that can help gardens hold water and support plant growth.**
3	How does the author respond to the concern that compost bins could smell bad or attract pests?	**The author says the school can use lidded bins and empty them often. Adults and picture signs could also help students sort scraps correctly.**
4	How would weighing food scraps and recording program costs help the principal make a decision?	**The principal could compare how much waste the program diverts with what the program costs, then decide whether to continue, improve, or stop it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school should continue a compost program if the one-month test shows that it keeps a large amount of food waste out of the landfill. Food scraps can become nutrient-rich material that helps gardens, so the program can turn waste into a useful resource. Although bins could smell or attract pests, lidded bins that are emptied often can reduce that problem. If the amount of waste diverted is worth the cost of the bins and collection, continuing the program is reasonable.

Accept a clear position supported by at least two accurate details from the passage and reasoning that explains how the details support the position. The response should acknowledge a concern and give a reasonable response to it.