Lasting First Choice

Analyze how a conclusion gathers reasons and directs action.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1e "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Bracket the section that concludes the argument. Underline its final recommendation, then number the three reasons it gathers to support that recommendation.

Water Before the Lobby

(1) Riverton High should replace its remaining hallway drinking fountains with bottle-filling stations before renovating the athletic lobby. The choice is not about making the school look newer. It is about ensuring that students can drink water quickly during a crowded day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that drinking enough water supports health, and access to water can help students choose it instead of sugary drinks. When a line forms at a fountain between classes, students may skip water altogether. A practical water system would serve more students every day than a decorative lobby upgrade.

(2) Some people argue that the athletic lobby needs attention because visiting teams and families see it first. That concern is understandable, but visibility is not the best measure of a project's value. A bottle-filling station is used by students, staff members, and visitors throughout the school day. Many stations also display an estimated count of plastic bottles avoided, which can make waste reduction visible rather than hidden. The district should compare installation and filter-replacement costs before choosing a model. Even with those costs, a durable improvement to daily access deserves priority over a renovation that mainly changes appearances.

(3) Riverton's leaders do not have to treat this decision as a contest between health and school pride. They can schedule a later lobby renovation after first funding bottle-filling stations in the busiest hallways. That sequence responds to the concern about the lobby while putting the daily needs of students first. Because reliable water access reaches a larger share of the school community, reduces a barrier during short passing periods, and offers a visible way to limit disposable bottles, it is the sounder first investment. The board should approve the stations now and evaluate their use before planning the lobby project.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What specific action does the concluding section ask the board to take?

2. What three reasons does the conclusion combine after the word "Because"?

3. How does the conclusion respond to the concern that the athletic lobby also needs attention?

4. How does the concluding section support the argument introduced in the first paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence concluding paragraph for this argument: The school should create a shaded outdoor study area near the library. It would give students a usable space during hot weather and reduce crowding inside, but some people worry about cost. Restate the recommendation in new words, connect both reasons to the claim, respond to the concern, and end with a clear action.

ANSWER KEY

Lasting First Choice

HIGH SCHOOL · W.11-12.1e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Bracket the section that concludes the argument. Underline its final recommendation, then number the three reasons it gathers to support that recommendation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What specific action does the concluding section ask the board to take?	**Approve bottle-filling stations now, evaluate their use, and plan the lobby project afterward.**
2	What three reasons does the conclusion combine after the word "Because"?	**Water access reaches more of the school community, reduces a barrier during short passing periods, and limits disposable bottles.**
3	How does the conclusion respond to the concern that the athletic lobby also needs attention?	**It proposes scheduling a later lobby renovation after funding bottle-filling stations first.**
4	How does the concluding section support the argument introduced in the first paragraph?	**It returns to the claim that bottle-filling stations should come before the lobby renovation and explains why daily water access has greater value.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because shade would make the area usable on hot days and give students another place to work, the school should prioritize an outdoor study space beside the library. Although the project will cost money, a simple design and phased construction can control expenses. The principal should ask the board to include the space in next year's facilities plan.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the conclusion's recommendation, synthesized reasons, and response to the counterargument. For the open response, accept varied wording if it has exactly three sentences, supports the claim with both stated reasons, addresses cost, and ends with an action.