Reasons at Recess

Read a model opinion piece and trace its reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a "Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that tells what the writer thinks the school should do. Circle the words First, Second, and Finally to show where each reason begins.

A Water Station for Recess

1 Many students play hard at recess and need a drink of water. Right now, the water fountain near the playground has a short spout, so filling a bottle can be slow. Our school should add a water bottle filling station near the playground. A filling station is a machine that sends water into the top of a reusable bottle. It would give students another place to get water.

2 First, a filling station could help students refill bottles quickly. The machine is made to fill a bottle from the top, unlike a regular fountain. Students could spend less recess time waiting in line. They could then return to games or talk with friends. This reason shows how the station could make recess run more smoothly.

3 Second, the station could support reusable bottles. When students refill a bottle, they may not need to choose a new plastic drink bottle. Using fewer single-use bottles can mean less trash around the playground. Finally, students could take a full bottle to class after recess. Having water nearby may help them feel ready to learn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the writer introduce in paragraph 1?

2. What is the writer's opinion?

3. Name two reasons the writer gives for adding the filling station.

4. How does the writer organize the reasons?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one helpful change for your school. Write three short paragraphs that introduce the change, state your opinion, and give three reasons using First, Second, and Finally.

ANSWER KEY

Reasons at Recess

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that tells what the writer thinks the school should do. Circle the words First, Second, and Finally to show where each reason begins. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the writer introduce in paragraph 1?	**Adding a water bottle filling station near the playground.**
2	What is the writer's opinion?	**Our school should add a water bottle filling station near the playground.**
3	Name two reasons the writer gives for adding the filling station.	**It could help students refill bottles quickly, and it could support reusable bottles.**
4	How does the writer organize the reasons?	**The writer uses the transition words First, Second, and Finally to introduce three reasons.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a shade canopy over part of the playground. On sunny days, students need a cooler place to sit and rest. First, a canopy would give students shade during recess. Second, it could make waiting for a turn on playground equipment more comfortable. Finally, teachers could use the shaded area for outdoor reading or class talks. A canopy would make the playground more useful on bright days.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the topic, opinion, and reasons from the passage. For the writing task, accept any school change with a clear opinion and three relevant, organized reasons.