Link the Reasons

Read an opinion model and trace the words that join ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1c "Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main opinion. Circle each linking word or phrase that connects an opinion to a reason or example.

A Garden for Butterflies

1. Our school should add a small butterfly garden near the playground. It would make recess more interesting because students could watch butterflies visit flowers. The garden could also help local insects find nectar. Since the space is now bare grass, it could become a useful place for learning and observing nature during science lessons, too.

2. A butterfly garden would give students a calm job to share. For example, classes could water plants, pull weeds, and record the butterflies they see. These tasks would teach care and teamwork. The garden would not need much room, because native flowers can grow in a small bed beside a fence at school each year.

3. Some people may worry that a garden takes work. However, students and families could help care for it. The school could choose hardy native plants, so they would need less water after they are growing. Therefore, a butterfly garden is a smart choice for our playground, our science learning, and the insects that live nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main opinion?

2. What reason comes after the word "because" in the first paragraph?

3. How does the phrase "For example" help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?

4. What does the word "Therefore" connect to the writer's final opinion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences that share your opinion about one improvement for your school. Use at least two linking words or phrases, such as because, since, for example, so, or therefore, to connect your opinion and reasons.

ANSWER KEY

Link the Reasons

GRADE 3 · W.3.1c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main opinion. Circle each linking word or phrase that connects an opinion to a reason or example. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main opinion?	**The school should add a small butterfly garden near the playground.**
2	What reason comes after the word "because" in the first paragraph?	**Students could watch butterflies visit flowers.**
3	How does the phrase "For example" help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?	**It introduces examples of jobs classes could do in the garden.**
4	What does the word "Therefore" connect to the writer's final opinion?	**It connects the earlier reasons to the conclusion that a butterfly garden is a smart choice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should place a water fountain near the field because players get thirsty during recess. For example, students could fill bottles there, so they would not need to walk across the playground.

Accept any accurate main opinion and passage-based explanation of how a linking word connects a reason, example, or conclusion. For Part 3, accept a clear school-improvement opinion with reasons connected by at least two appropriate linking words or phrases.