

Build a Better Explanation

See how a writer organizes information for a clear purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.4 "With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, and circle the sentence that gives the closing idea so you can see how the writer organizes an explanation.

A Compost Bin for Our Garden

- ① A compost bin can help our school garden grow. Compost is made from old plant materials that break down over time. Our class could collect fruit and vegetable scraps, dry leaves, and grass clippings in a covered bin. We would keep meat, cheese, and plastic out because those items can cause problems in the bin.
- ② To care for the compost, we would add a layer of dry leaves after adding wet food scraps. Then we would stir the materials with a garden tool every week. Air helps tiny living things break down the scraps. If the bin seems dry, we would sprinkle in a little water, not enough to make a puddle.
- ③ After several months, the compost can become dark and crumbly. We could mix this finished compost into the garden soil before planting seeds. It would add useful material to the soil and keep some scraps out of the trash. A compost bin is a simple project that can help our garden and teach our class about nature.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the writer's purpose for this explanation?

2 Which materials does the writer say may go into the compost bin?

3 How does paragraph 2 help organize the explanation?

4 How does paragraph 3 work as a closing paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 3-paragraph explanation of how your class can save water at school. In paragraph 1, introduce the idea, in paragraph 2 give at least two steps or details, and in paragraph 3 explain the result and close your writing. Write 60 to 90 words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, and circle the sentence that gives the closing idea so you can see how the writer organizes an explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's purpose for this explanation?	To explain how a class can use and care for a compost bin and why it helps.
2	Which materials does the writer say may go into the compost bin?	Fruit and vegetable scraps, dry leaves, and grass clippings.
3	How does paragraph 2 help organize the explanation?	It gives steps for caring for the compost, including adding dry leaves, stirring it, and adding a little water if needed.
4	How does paragraph 3 work as a closing paragraph?	It explains what finished compost can do and summarizes how the project helps the garden and class.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class can save water every day at school. Saving water helps protect a resource that people, plants, and animals need. First, turn off the faucet while soaping hands, then turn it on to rinse. Next, tell an adult if a sink drips or a drinking fountain leaks. These small actions can stop water from being wasted. When our class works together, we can use less water and care for our school.

Accept answers that identify the passage's clear topic, supporting details, and closing idea. For the writing task, accept a three-paragraph response with an introduction, at least two useful details or steps, and a closing that explains the result.