

Rack Up Reasons

Read a model opinion and notice how its reasons are organized.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1a "Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's opinion. Number the two groups of reasons that support that opinion, 1 and 2, to show how the ideas are organized.

A Dry Place for Bikes

- ① Our school should add a covered bike rack near the front entrance. Many students and staff ride bikes, but rain can leave seats and handlebars wet. A covered rack would give bicycles a dry place during storms. It would also show that our school supports students who choose a healthy way to travel each day.
- ② First, a covered rack could help riders keep their bikes in better condition. Water can rust some metal parts over time, and wet seats are uncomfortable. When bikes are protected from rain and snow, families may spend less money replacing damaged parts. This reason matters because a bike rack should protect the bicycles parked there.
- ③ Second, the rack could make the entrance safer and neater. Without enough spaces, bicycles may lean against walls or sit near walkways. A larger, covered rack would give each bike a clear spot. Students and visitors could move through the entrance more easily. For these reasons, the school should place a covered bike rack near the front entrance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

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

2 What is the writer's opinion?

3 What group of ideas supports the opinion in the second paragraph?

4 How are the reasons organized in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 130 to 160 word opinion piece in exactly three paragraphs about one change your school should make. Introduce the change and state your opinion in the first paragraph, then group one reason in each of the next two paragraphs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's opinion. Number the two groups of reasons that support that opinion, 1 and 2, to show how the ideas are organized. 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 the first paragraph?	Adding a covered bike rack near the front entrance.
2	What is the writer's opinion?	The school should add a covered bike rack near the front entrance.
3	What group of ideas supports the opinion in the second paragraph?	A covered rack would protect bikes from rain and snow, helping keep them in better condition and reducing damage.
4	How are the reasons organized in the passage?	The second paragraph gives reasons about protecting bicycles, and the third paragraph gives reasons about making the entrance safer and neater.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a quiet reading corner in the cafeteria. Some students finish lunch early and need a calm activity before recess. A small area with shelves, cushions, and books would give them a useful choice. It could make lunchtime feel more peaceful for students who do not want to play loud games. First, the reading corner could help students use their time well. They could read a chapter, look at a magazine, or share a book with a friend. Teachers could place books about animals, sports, and mysteries there so many readers could find something interesting. Second, this space could make the cafeteria less crowded and noisy. Students who prefer a quieter place would have one. With clear rules, such as using soft voices and returning books, the corner could stay welcoming. For these reasons, our school should add a quiet reading corner to the cafeteria.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage questions. For the writing task, accept any clear school-related opinion with a topic and opinion in paragraph one, plus two separately grouped supporting reasons in paragraphs two and three.