

Compost Case

Identify an opinion, reasons, and supporting information in a model piece.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1 "Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion and conclusion. Number the two reasons 1 and 2, then circle the facts or examples that support each reason.

A Bin for Lunch Scraps

- ① Our school should set up a compost bin for fruit peels and other plant scraps from lunch. Composting turns these materials into nutrient-rich soil instead of sending them to a landfill. A bin near the cafeteria would give students a simple way to make less trash. It could also connect our daily choices to the school garden.
- ② First, composting can reduce the amount of waste placed in garbage cans. At lunch, many students throw away banana peels, apple cores, and lettuce leaves. These items can break down in a compost pile when they have air, water, and tiny living things such as bacteria. Keeping them separate would leave more room in trash bags for items that cannot be composted.
- ③ Second, the compost could help the school garden. Garden soil needs nutrients, and finished compost can add organic matter to soil. Science classes could use the bin to observe how materials change over time, while the garden club could use the compost around plants. For these reasons, the principal should approve a small composting program and review how well it works after one semester.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the writer's opinion?

2 What is the first reason for the writer's opinion? Give two details that support this reason.

3 What is the second reason for the writer's opinion? How does the information about finished compost support that reason?

4 What action does the writer ask the principal to take? Which words signal the conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 6-sentence opinion piece explaining whether your school should offer a quiet activity area at recess. State your opinion, give two reasons with facts or examples, use a linking word, and end with a concluding sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion and conclusion. Number the two reasons 1 and 2, then circle the facts or examples that support each reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's opinion?	The school should set up a compost bin for plant scraps from lunch.
2	What is the first reason for the writer's opinion? Give two details that support this reason.	The first reason is that composting can reduce garbage waste. Banana peels, apple cores, and lettuce leaves can break down in a compost pile, and separating them leaves more room for non-compostable trash.
3	What is the second reason for the writer's opinion? How does the information about finished compost support that reason?	The second reason is that compost could help the school garden. Finished compost adds organic matter to soil, which supports the idea that it would be useful in the garden.
4	What action does the writer ask the principal to take? Which words signal the conclusion?	The writer asks the principal to approve a small composting program and review it after one semester. The words "For these reasons" signal the conclusion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should offer a quiet activity area at recess. First, some students prefer to draw, read, or talk calmly instead of playing running games. A table with pencils and books would give those students a useful choice. Also, a quiet area could leave more open space for games on crowded days. Students who choose calm activities would not need to stand near the basketball court or soccer field. For these reasons, the principal should try a quiet activity area for one month.

Accept equivalent statements of the opinion, reasons, evidence, and conclusion when they match the passage. For the open response, accept varied opinions if the student includes a clear claim, two supported reasons, a linking word, and a conclusion in six sentences.