

Plan the Garden

Read a model opinion paragraph structure.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1a “Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer’s purpose.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic and states the opinion, write 1 and 2 by the paragraphs with reasons, and circle one supporting detail in each reason paragraph.

A Garden for Our School

- ① Our school should turn the empty corner near the playground into a vegetable garden. A garden would give students a useful outdoor place to learn, and it would make the campus more welcoming. Some people may see only dirt and weeds there now, but that small space could grow food, science lessons, and community pride.
- ② First, the garden would make science class more hands-on. Students could compare how seeds change with water and sunlight, measure plant height, and record observations. They could also watch bees and butterflies visit flowers. These activities would help students connect ideas from books to living things they can study closely right outside their classroom each day.
- ③ Second, a garden could bring people together. Families could donate seeds, and classes could share vegetables with the cafeteria or a local food pantry. Students would care for the beds in teams, so they would practice responsibility. For these reasons, the school should build the garden this year and use the unused corner well right away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence introduces the topic and clearly states the writer's opinion?

2 What is the first reason for building a garden? Give two details that support this reason.

3 How does the third paragraph add a different group of reasons than the second paragraph?

4 How does the final sentence support the writer's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write one opinion paragraph of five or six sentences about one improvement your school should make. State your opinion in the first sentence, then group your reasons clearly with details that support each reason.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic and states the opinion, write 1 and 2 by the paragraphs with reasons, and circle one supporting detail in each reason paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence introduces the topic and clearly states the writer's opinion?	"Our school should turn the empty corner near the playground into a vegetable garden."
2	What is the first reason for building a garden? Give two details that support this reason.	The first reason is that a garden would make science class more hands-on. Supporting details include comparing seed growth with water and sunlight, measuring plant height, recording observations, or watching pollinators visit flowers.
3	How does the third paragraph add a different group of reasons than the second paragraph?	The second paragraph focuses on science learning. The third paragraph focuses on bringing people together, sharing food, and practicing responsibility.
4	How does the final sentence support the writer's purpose?	It repeats the opinion that the school should build the garden and calls for action this year.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water refill station near the gym. First, students could fill reusable bottles after recess and sports. This would make drinking water easy to reach. Second, fewer students would need single-use plastic bottles. A refill station would help our school stay healthy and reduce waste.

Accept any clear school-improvement topic with an opinion stated near the beginning. The response should group at least two reasons logically and include details that support each reason.