

A Garden Case

Trace a claim, reasons, and evidence in a model argument.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1 "Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the claim, circle each reason, and number the pieces of evidence that support the reasons so you can see how the argument is built.

A Native Plant Garden

- ① Our school should turn the bare strip beside the playground into a small native plant garden. Native plants are species that grow naturally in a region. Because they are adapted to local rainfall and soil, many need less extra water after they are established than plants from other regions. A garden would give students a living place to observe roots, insects, and seasonal changes during science lessons. This practical learning space is a strong reason to build it.
- ② Native plants can also support pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, by providing nectar, pollen, or places to lay eggs. Pollinators help many flowering plants reproduce. In addition, a garden can make the playground more pleasant on warm days when taller plants create shade near a bench. Some people may worry that a garden would be expensive or difficult to care for. However, the school could begin with one small bed, ask a local native-plant group for advice, and schedule student teams to help weed it.
- ③ Building the garden is a sensible use of a small space that now has no clear purpose. Its benefits would reach science classes, students who enjoy the playground, and local pollinators. The project does not need to happen all at once. Starting small would limit costs while letting the school learn which plants grow well there. For these reasons, the principal should approve a native plant garden and invite students to help carefully plan it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's main claim?

2 Give one reason the author supports the garden and one piece of evidence that supports that reason.

3 What concern does the author acknowledge, and how does the author respond to it?

4 Which details support the idea that the garden would be useful for students? Give two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Your school has a quiet courtyard with six unused benches, afternoon tree shade, and 20 portable book crates in the library. Write exactly five sentences arguing whether the school should create an outdoor reading area there. State a clear claim and use at least two details from the evidence to support your reasons.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the claim, circle each reason, and number the pieces of evidence that support the reasons so you can see how the argument is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	The school should turn the bare strip beside the playground into a small native plant garden.
2	Give one reason the author supports the garden and one piece of evidence that supports that reason.	One reason is that the garden would support pollinators. The evidence is that native plants can provide nectar, pollen, or places to lay eggs.
3	What concern does the author acknowledge, and how does the author respond to it?	The author acknowledges that the garden could be expensive or difficult to care for. The author suggests starting with one small bed, getting local advice, and having student teams help weed.
4	Which details support the idea that the garden would be useful for students? Give two details from the passage.	Students could observe roots, insects, and seasonal changes during science lessons, and taller plants could create shade near a bench on warm days.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should turn the quiet courtyard into an outdoor reading area. First, it already has six unused benches, so students would have places to sit without buying new seats. Second, afternoon tree shade can make the area more comfortable during warm weather. Although rainy days would not work, classes could use the courtyard when conditions are dry. This low-cost space would give students another place to read and discuss books.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, reasons, evidence, concern, and response when each answer is supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly five sentences, a clear position, and at least two relevant courtyard details connected to reasons.