A Garden Case

Trace how a model proposal uses reasons, evidence, and credible sources.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1b "Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim. Number each reason that supports it, and circle each fact linked to a named source.

A Native Garden for School

1. Our school should replace one unused patch of lawn with a native plant garden. Native plants are species that grow naturally in a region, and they can provide food and shelter for local wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal wildlife agency, explains that native plants can provide nectar and pollen for pollinators. A garden near the library could give students a place to observe butterflies, bees, and other insects during regular science lessons.

2. Native plants may also save water after they are established. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is a federal agency. On its WaterSense website, the EPA states that native plants are adapted to local climate conditions and usually need less water than plants from other regions. This fact supports the garden plan because the school would not need to water it as often as a garden filled with plants that need wetter conditions. Less watering could also leave more time for the grounds crew to do other work.

3. Some people might worry that a garden would take up space or cost money. However, the National Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit conservation organization, offers free online guides for creating schoolyard habitat gardens. Its guide suggests beginning with a small area and choosing plants suited to the site. Starting small makes the proposal realistic, and the garden's benefits for insects, learning, and water use give the school clear reasons to try it. For these reasons, the principal should approve a native plant garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's claim? Give two reasons the writer uses to support it.

2. What source-based evidence supports the reason that the garden may save water? Explain how the evidence supports that reason.

3. How does the passage show that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA are credible sources?

4. How does the writer respond to the concern that a garden could cost money or take up space? What evidence makes the response realistic?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences recommending that your school create a native plant garden. State a claim, give one clear reason, and use two relevant facts from two different sources in the passage, naming both sources.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim. Number each reason that supports it, and circle each fact linked to a named source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's claim? Give two reasons the writer uses to support it.	**The principal should approve a native plant garden. Reasons include helping pollinators and learning, using less water, and starting with a small, realistic area.**
2	What source-based evidence supports the reason that the garden may save water? Explain how the evidence supports that reason.	**The EPA WaterSense website says native plants are adapted to local climate conditions and usually need less water than plants from other regions. This supports the idea that the school would need to water the garden less often.**
3	How does the passage show that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA are credible sources?	**The passage identifies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a federal wildlife agency and the EPA as a federal agency.**
4	How does the writer respond to the concern that a garden could cost money or take up space? What evidence makes the response realistic?	**The writer says the school can start with a small area. The National Wildlife Federation guide suggests beginning small and choosing plants suited to the site.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a native plant garden near the library. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service explains that native plants can provide nectar and pollen for pollinators, so the garden could support local insects. The EPA states that native plants usually need less water than plants from other regions, making the garden a practical choice.

Accept a three-sentence response with a clear recommendation, a logical reason, and accurate evidence from two named passage sources. Evidence may focus on pollinators, water use, or starting small if the source connection is accurate.