Build the Case

Study how a model argument connects a claim, reasons, and evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1 "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 writer builds an argument.

A Garden by the Bus Loop

(1) Our school should replace one section of lawn near the bus loop with a native-plant garden. The lawn is mowed often, yet it offers little shade or food for local wildlife. Native plants are species that grow naturally in a region and often need less supplemental watering after they become established. A small garden would turn an ordinary space into a useful outdoor area without taking away the field used for games during recess or practice.

(2) First, a native-plant garden could support pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Pollinators move pollen between flowers, helping many plants make seeds and fruit. The U.S. Department of Agriculture explains that native plants provide food and shelter for local pollinators. Because the garden would contain several kinds of flowering plants, it could offer nectar from spring into fall. This reason matters because pollinators help maintain healthy plant communities in parks, yards, and nearby natural areas.

(3) Second, the garden would give science classes a nearby place to collect observations. Students could compare insect visits, measure plant growth, and record changes across seasons. According to the National Wildlife Federation, school gardens can support hands-on learning by connecting lessons to living things. A garden beside the building would be easier to visit than a distant nature center, so teachers could use it during a single class period. These practical learning opportunities strengthen the case for changing the lawn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What claim does the writer make about the lawn near the bus loop?

2. What are the writer's two main reasons for supporting a native-plant garden?

3. Copy one piece of evidence that supports the reason about pollinators. Then explain how it supports that reason.

4. How does the writer use the garden's location to support the reason for science learning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence argument for one improvement at your school. State a clear claim, give two reasons, and include a specific observation, fact, or example that supports each reason.

ANSWER KEY

Build the Case

GRADE 7 · W.7.1

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 writer builds an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the writer make about the lawn near the bus loop?	**The school should replace one section of lawn near the bus loop with a native-plant garden.**
2	What are the writer's two main reasons for supporting a native-plant garden?	**The garden could support pollinators, and it could give science classes a nearby place to collect observations.**
3	Copy one piece of evidence that supports the reason about pollinators. Then explain how it supports that reason.	**"The U.S. Department of Agriculture explains that native plants provide food and shelter for local pollinators." This supports the reason because it shows that native plants can meet pollinators' needs.**
4	How does the writer use the garden's location to support the reason for science learning?	**The writer explains that a garden beside the building would be easier to visit than a distant nature center, so teachers could use it during one class period.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a covered bike rack near the main entrance. First, it would keep bicycles drier, because during three rainy mornings I saw students leave their bikes exposed outside. Second, it would provide safer parking, since at dismissal I saw several bikes locked to a fence because the current rack was full. A covered rack would make biking to school more practical.

Accept accurate wording for the claim, reasons, and evidence questions when students clearly connect evidence to the matching reason. For Part 3, accept varied school improvements if the response has a claim, two reasons, and relevant evidence for each reason.