Linking a Case

Trace how an argument connects claims, reasons, and evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1c "Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim in paragraph 1. Circle words, phrases, and clauses that connect ideas so you can see whether they add a reason, show a cause, introduce a contrast, or state a result.

A Covered Bike Rack

1 Our school should install a covered bike rack near the main entrance. A roofed rack would make biking a more practical choice for students who live nearby. Currently, many bikes are left in the open beside the building. When rain soaks seats and backpacks, students may choose a car ride instead. In addition, a covered rack would show that the school values safe, active travel. For these reasons, the school should include a rack in its next campus improvement plan.

2 First, shelter would protect bicycles from weather. Bike chains can rust when they stay wet, and rusty chains can make pedaling difficult. Likewise, dry seats and handlebars are more comfortable at the end of the school day. The proposed rack could also reduce clutter. Because bicycles would have one clear parking area, walkers would be less likely to step around them near the entrance. Thus, the rack would improve both bike care and the path that students use each day.

3 Some people may argue that a covered rack costs money that could be spent on other needs. However, the project does not need to be large. The school could begin with a small rack and ask a local business or community group to help fund it. As a result, the school could test whether students use the shelter before expanding it. Since the rack addresses weather, clutter, and active travel, a small first step is a sensible solution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which phrase introduces an additional reason for adding the bike rack in paragraph 1?

2. How does the clause beginning with "When rain soaks" connect to the author's reason for a covered rack?

3. Which word signals the result in the final sentence of paragraph 2? What ideas does it connect?

4. What relationship does "However" show in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences arguing for a school improvement different from a covered bike rack. Include a claim, two reasons, and one specific evidence detail, using linking words, phrases, or clauses to show addition, evidence, and a result.

ANSWER KEY

Linking a Case

GRADE 7 · W.7.1c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim in paragraph 1. Circle words, phrases, and clauses that connect ideas so you can see whether they add a reason, show a cause, introduce a contrast, or state a result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which phrase introduces an additional reason for adding the bike rack in paragraph 1?	**"In addition" introduces the additional reason that the rack would show the school values safe, active travel.**
2	How does the clause beginning with "When rain soaks" connect to the author's reason for a covered rack?	**It explains a cause and effect: wet seats and backpacks may lead students to choose car rides instead of biking.**
3	Which word signals the result in the final sentence of paragraph 2? What ideas does it connect?	**"Thus" signals a result. It connects protection from weather and less clutter to improved bike care and a clearer walking path.**
4	What relationship does "However" show in paragraph 3?	**It shows a contrast between the objection about cost and the response that the project could begin as a small rack.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a quiet lunch space in an unused corner of the library. First, it would give students a calmer place to eat, and, in addition, it would let others read during lunch. For example, a student who feels overwhelmed by cafeteria noise could eat there and return to class ready to focus. Therefore, a quiet area would help more students feel comfortable at school.

Accept equivalent explanations of how the linking language shows addition, cause and effect, contrast, or result. For Part 3, accept varied school improvements if the response has exactly four sentences and clearly connects a claim, two reasons, and a specific detail.