The Case for Calm

Read a model argument and trace how its evidence works.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1 "Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main claim, circle each reason, and number each piece of evidence that supports a reason. These parts show how an argument is built.

A Quiet Place to Work

1. To the principal: Our school should open a quiet study room during the last hour after classes end. Many students wait for rides, practices, or activities, yet the library is often busy with clubs and group projects. A separate room would give students a calm place to finish homework before they leave. It would also make useful use of Room 214, which is empty most afternoons. This change would support learning without requiring a new building or a longer school day.

2. In a March survey of 140 eighth graders, 102 students said they sometimes have nowhere quiet to work while waiting after school. In addition, the after-school coordinator's sign-in sheets show that 46 students used the library during the final hour on a typical Tuesday in April. The library has only 32 individual seats; some students sat at tables where teams were planning projects. A quiet study room would give those students another option and reduce crowding in the library. Because Room 214 already has desks, the school could begin with little equipment.

3. Some people may worry that supervising another room would cost too much. However, the study room could open only on Tuesdays and Thursdays at first, when the coordinator is already on duty nearby. A teacher volunteer could also supervise once a week, just as teachers currently supervise clubs. The school should test the room for one month and collect sign-in data and student comments. If students use it regularly, the principal could continue the program. This small trial is a practical response to a real need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main claim?

2. Give one reason the writer gives for opening a study room and one piece of evidence that supports that reason.

3. Why is the information about the library's 32 individual seats relevant to the writer's argument?

4. What concern does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a realistic school improvement not discussed in the passage. Write 6 to 8 sentences that state a claim, give two reasons with at least two specific pieces of evidence, and acknowledge then answer one concern.

ANSWER KEY

The Case for Calm

GRADE 8 · W.8.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim, circle each reason, and number each piece of evidence that supports a reason. These parts show how an 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 writer's main claim?	**The school should open a quiet study room during the last hour after classes end.**
2	Give one reason the writer gives for opening a study room and one piece of evidence that supports that reason.	**One reason is that students need a quiet place to work while waiting after school. Evidence: In a survey of 140 eighth graders, 102 said they sometimes had nowhere quiet to work.**
3	Why is the information about the library's 32 individual seats relevant to the writer's argument?	**It shows that the library may not have enough quiet individual work spaces for the 46 students who used it during the final hour.**
4	What concern does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer respond to it?	**The writer acknowledges that supervising another room may cost too much. The response is to begin on two days when the coordinator is nearby and use a teacher volunteer once a week.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a covered bike rack near the main entrance. A covered rack would keep bicycles drier during rainy weather. During three rainy mornings this spring, I saw several students leave wet seats and handlebars outside. It would also make bike parking more organized. At dismissal, I counted nine bicycles attached to fences because the current rack was full. Some people may say a covered rack would cost too much. The school could start with a small rack funded through a student council fundraiser and add spaces later.

Accept equivalent wording when students identify the claim, reasons, evidence, and response to the concern accurately. For the open response, accept varied school improvements if the writing includes a clear claim, two supported reasons, and a relevant response to a concern.