

Garden Vote

Read a model opinion that uses sources, transitions, and a conclusion.

ELA.3.C.1.3 "Write opinions about a topic or text, include reasons supported by details from one or more sources, use transitions, and provide a conclusion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion and conclusion. Circle the transition words, then number two details from sources that support the opinion.

A Garden for Butterflies

- ① I think our school should add a small butterfly garden near the playground. Butterflies need flowers for nectar, and their caterpillars need certain plants for food. A garden could give students a close place to watch these insects. The National Wildlife Federation says native plants provide food and shelter for butterflies. This source supports my idea.
- ② First, a butterfly garden could help local wildlife. In a book from the library, I learned that monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves. Planting milkweed and other native flowers could help monarchs find food. Also, the garden could help students learn. During science class, students could observe eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises, and adult butterflies without leaving school.
- ③ Some people may worry that a garden needs too much work. However, our school garden club could water plants, and classes could take turns pulling weeds. A park ranger who visited our class said native plants usually need less water after they are established. For these reasons, I believe a butterfly garden would be a useful addition to our playground.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What opinion does the writer state in paragraph 1?

2 What two source details support the writer's opinion?

3 What transition words start the sentences that add reasons or answer a concern in paragraphs 2 and 3?

4 What conclusion does the writer give?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one change that would improve your school. Write 4 or 5 sentences that state your opinion, give two reasons with details from two sources, use transition words, and end with a conclusion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion and conclusion. Circle the transition words, then number two details from sources that support the opinion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What opinion does the writer state in paragraph 1?	The writer thinks the school should add a small butterfly garden near the playground.
2	What two source details support the writer's opinion?	The National Wildlife Federation says native plants provide food and shelter for butterflies. A library book says monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves.
3	What transition words start the sentences that add reasons or answer a concern in paragraphs 2 and 3?	First, Also, and However.
4	What conclusion does the writer give?	The writer believes a butterfly garden would be a useful addition to the playground.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our school should add more shade trees near the field. First, a student survey showed that many students look for shade during outdoor recess. Also, our science book explains that tree leaves block some sunlight, which can make an area cooler. Therefore, trees could make recess more comfortable. For these reasons, I believe shade trees would improve our school.

Accept reasonable opinions when students include two reasons supported by details from two named sources. Look for transition words or phrases and a final sentence that restates the opinion or gives a clear conclusion.