Garden Argument Map

Read a model claim and trace its evidence.

ELA.5.C.1.3 "Write to make a claim supporting a perspective with logical reasons, relevant evidence from sources, elaboration, and an organizational structure with varied transitions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the claim and each reason, circle evidence that names a source, and number the transition words that organize the reasons so you can see how the argument is built.

A Garden for Our School

1. Our school should create a small native-plant garden beside the playground. It would make the space more useful than a strip of plain grass. First, native flowers can provide food and shelter for local pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. The U.S. Forest Service explains that native plants support wildlife because they grow naturally in an area. A garden could help students observe these animals safely.

2. Also, the garden could save water after it is established. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, native plants usually need less water than many nonnative plants because they are suited to local rainfall and soil. Our grounds crew would not need to water the bed as often as a flower bed filled with thirsty plants. This makes the idea practical, not only beautiful.

3. Finally, a native-plant garden can be built in stages. The National Wildlife Federation suggests choosing plants that belong in the local region, so a science class could research which flowers fit our area. Then families could donate a few plants, and classes could add more each season. For these reasons, the principal should approve a garden plan for next spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What claim does the writer make?

2. What source-based evidence supports the reason that the garden could save water?

3. How does the sentence “This makes the idea practical, not only beautiful” elaborate on the writer's reason?

4. How do the transitions “First,” “Also,” and “Finally” help organize the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use these source notes: The CDC recommends choosing water instead of sugary drinks. The EPA recommends reusable items to reduce waste. Write exactly seven sentences arguing whether your school should install a water-bottle filling station, and include a claim, two reasons, evidence from both sources, elaboration, and varied transitions.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Argument Map

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the claim and each reason, circle evidence that names a source, and number the transition words that organize the reasons so you can see how the argument is built. 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?	**The school should create a small native-plant garden beside the playground.**
2	What source-based evidence supports the reason that the garden could save water?	**The Environmental Protection Agency says native plants usually need less water than many nonnative plants because they are suited to local rainfall and soil.**
3	How does the sentence “This makes the idea practical, not only beautiful” elaborate on the writer's reason?	**It explains that saving water makes the garden a useful and sensible choice, not just an attractive one.**
4	How do the transitions “First,” “Also,” and “Finally” help organize the passage?	**They introduce three separate reasons in an orderly sequence: helping pollinators, saving water, and building the garden in stages.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install a water-bottle filling station near the cafeteria. First, it could make water easier to choose at lunch. The CDC recommends choosing water instead of sugary drinks. Because the station would be nearby, students could refill bottles before buying a sweet drink. In addition, the EPA recommends reusable items to reduce waste. Students could use the station with reusable bottles instead of bringing single-use drink containers. Therefore, a filling station would support healthier choices and create less trash.

Accept reasonable paraphrases of the claim, reasons, evidence, elaboration, and transition structure when they match the passage. For Part 3, check for exactly seven sentences, a clear position, two logical reasons, both named sources, explanation of the evidence, and transitions that organize the argument.