Opinion Detectives

Read a model opinion piece and trace its parts.

3.T.T.3.c "Apply opinion techniques to create opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion about the topic, supply reasons to support the opinion with linking words (e.g., because, therefore, since…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that states the writer's opinion, circle each linking word or phrase, number the three supporting reasons 1, 2, and 3, and box the concluding statement so you can see how an opinion piece is built.

A Station for Water Bottles

(1) Students bring water bottles to school for lunch, recess, and class. Our school should add a water bottle filling station near the cafeteria. I think this would be a smart choice. A filling station is a machine that gives drinking water for reusable bottles. Here are three reasons this change would help our school each day.

(2) First, the station would help cut down on trash because students could refill the bottles they already own. Fewer plastic bottles might end up in school bins or on the playground. Second, filling a bottle is useful after recess, since running and playing can make students thirsty. For example, a student could get water without waiting to buy a drink.

(3) Some people may say that water fountains are enough. However, a filling station is different from a fountain. It is made to fill bottles. Third, it may also help students choose water when they need a drink. Therefore, our school should add a water bottle filling station. This useful change would help keep our school cleaner and help students stay ready to learn.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the writer introduce, and what is the writer's opinion about it?

2. Write three linking words or phrases the writer uses to connect ideas and reasons.

3. What are the writer's three supporting reasons for adding a filling station?

4. What concluding statement does the writer give?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short opinion piece about whether your classroom should have a class pet. Introduce the topic, state your opinion, give exactly three reasons using at least three linking words, and end with a concluding statement.

ANSWER KEY

Opinion Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.T.T.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that states the writer's opinion, circle each linking word or phrase, number the three supporting reasons 1, 2, and 3, and box the concluding statement so you can see how an opinion piece is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the writer introduce, and what is the writer's opinion about it?	**The topic is adding a water bottle filling station near the cafeteria. The writer thinks the school should add one.**
2	Write three linking words or phrases the writer uses to connect ideas and reasons.	**because, since, for example**
3	What are the writer's three supporting reasons for adding a filling station?	**It would cut down on trash, help thirsty students after recess, and help students choose water when they need a drink.**
4	What concluding statement does the writer give?	**This useful change would help keep our school cleaner and help students stay ready to learn.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our classroom should have a class pet. First, a small pet could help us learn to care for a living thing because we would feed it and keep its space clean. Second, watching a pet could make science lessons more interesting, since we could notice its needs and behavior. Third, a class pet could give us a calm job to do, for example, checking its water. Therefore, I think a class pet would be a helpful part of our classroom.

Accept varied opinions if the response introduces the class-pet topic, clearly states an opinion, gives exactly three relevant reasons, uses at least three linking words, and ends with a conclusion. Reason order and wording may vary.