A Place to Pause

Analyze how an opinion letter uses reasons and audience-focused language.

4.P.AC.1.a "Identify, apply, and analyze the literary, expository, and opinion (grades K-5) or rhetorical (grades 6-12) elements in texts, explaining or evaluating how specific elements affect the target audience and support the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the writer's main claim, underline the reasons and examples that support it, and number the words or sentences that speak directly to the principal. These choices help the writer persuade a specific audience.

Letter to Our Principal

1. Dear Principal Lopez, our playground needs a quiet reading nook near the big oak tree beside the basketball court. During recess, some students want a calm place to read, draw, or talk with one friend. A small nook with two benches and a weatherproof book box would give them that choice. Please consider adding one this spring.

2. A reading nook can help more children enjoy recess. The school library is closed during recess, and the cafeteria can be noisy. At another school, a book box let students borrow a book outside, then return it before class. Our nook could hold donated books and sketch pads. This simple space would serve students who need a peaceful break.

3. You may wonder whether benches and a book box cost too much. Families could donate gently used books, and the student council could organize a small fundraiser for the benches. Wouldn't a welcoming recess area show that every student belongs? Principal Lopez, please help create this nook so our playground has room for active games and quiet moments.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's purpose, and who is the target audience?

2. Name two details from paragraph 2 that support the writer's claim. How do they help persuade the principal?

3. How does the question, "Wouldn't a welcoming recess area show that every student belongs?" affect the principal?

4. How does paragraph 3 respond to a possible concern about the plan?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences that convince your principal to make a different improvement to the playground. Include a clear claim, one reason or detail, and one sentence that speaks directly to the principal or asks a persuasive question.

ANSWER KEY

A Place to Pause

GRADE 4 · 4.P.AC.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the writer's main claim, underline the reasons and examples that support it, and number the words or sentences that speak directly to the principal. These choices help the writer persuade a specific audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's purpose, and who is the target audience?	**The writer wants to convince Principal Lopez to add a quiet reading nook to the playground.**
2	Name two details from paragraph 2 that support the writer's claim. How do they help persuade the principal?	**The library is closed during recess and the cafeteria can be noisy. These details show that students may need another quiet place during recess.**
3	How does the question, "Wouldn't a welcoming recess area show that every student belongs?" affect the principal?	**It invites the principal to agree that the nook would make students feel included.**
4	How does paragraph 3 respond to a possible concern about the plan?	**It responds to the cost concern by suggesting book donations and a student council fundraiser.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Lopez, our playground needs a water bottle filling station near the field. After running at recess, students can refill bottles instead of waiting for one drinking fountain. Would you help give active students a quick way to get water?

Accept answers that identify the opinion letter's purpose, audience, claim, supporting reasons, and audience-focused language using passage evidence. For Part 3, accept any different playground improvement that includes all three required elements.