Garden Plan Pitch

Notice how a proposal organizes an idea, facts, steps, and a closing request.

4.P.CP.2.a "Communicate clearly to present ideas, information, and texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the main idea, circle the order words that guide the action steps, and number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show how the speaker organizes the message clearly.

A Home for Monarchs

1 Good morning, neighbors. Our empty corner lot could become a monarch butterfly garden. Monarchs need milkweed because their caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves. Adult butterflies also drink nectar from flowers. By planting both kinds of plants, we can give monarchs food during more than one part of their lives. This small change can make a useful stop for traveling butterflies.

2 First, our class can choose a sunny space and draw a simple garden plan. Next, volunteers can remove weeds and add compost to the soil. Then we can plant milkweed and nectar flowers, such as coneflowers or zinnias. Clear steps help everyone know what to do. They also show that the project can begin with tools and time we already have.

3 A butterfly garden will not solve every problem monarchs face, but it is a helpful local action. It can make our school grounds brighter while giving insects a needed resource. I hope the neighborhood association will approve the garden plan this spring. With a clear plan and shared work, this corner can become a place where monarchs can find food.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What idea does the speaker want the neighborhood association to approve?

2. What two facts in the first paragraph explain why the garden needs milkweed and flowers?

3. How do the words “First,” “Next,” and “Then” help present the garden plan clearly?

4. What does the speaker ask the neighborhood association to do, and when?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph proposal for one improvement at your school. In paragraph 1, state your idea and explain a need. In paragraph 2, give three steps using First, Next, and Then. In paragraph 3, restate your request and tell one benefit.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Plan Pitch

GRADE 4 · 4.P.CP.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the main idea, circle the order words that guide the action steps, and number the three paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to show how the speaker organizes the message clearly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea does the speaker want the neighborhood association to approve?	**A plan to turn the empty corner lot into a monarch butterfly garden.**
2	What two facts in the first paragraph explain why the garden needs milkweed and flowers?	**Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves, and adult butterflies drink nectar from flowers.**
3	How do the words “First,” “Next,” and “Then” help present the garden plan clearly?	**They put the action steps in order.**
4	What does the speaker ask the neighborhood association to do, and when?	**Approve the garden plan this spring.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We should create a quiet reading nook outside the cafeteria. Some students need a calm place to read or finish work during recess. First, the school can choose a shaded spot near the library. Next, families can donate weather-safe benches and a small book box. Then student helpers can sort books and make a sign with the nook rules. Please approve this reading nook for the fall. It would give students a peaceful space and make books easier to share.

Accept equivalent wording for the main idea, supporting facts, sequence words, and closing request. For the open response, look for a clear idea, a stated need, three ordered steps, and a closing request with a benefit.