Make the Case

Identify claims, reasons, evidence, and persuasive choices.

4.T.T.3.a "Discuss and evaluate techniques used to present and design opinion and argumentative texts, including author's opinion or claim, supporting reasons, and evidence. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim. Circle facts or observations used as evidence, and number each reason that supports the claim.

A Better Recess Refill

(1) Our school should add a water bottle filling station near the gym. Right now, students often wait in line at one fountain after recess. A filling station would let students refill bottles quickly and return to class ready to learn. This change would help many students every day, not just one team or class at a time.

(2) First, the station could cut down on waste. In 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency reported that the United States generated more than 14 million tons of plastic containers and packaging as waste. When students refill sturdy bottles, fewer single-use bottles may end up in trash cans. Second, drinking water after exercise helps students replace fluid lost through sweat. Placing the station by the gym makes this healthy choice easy at the moment students need it.

(3) Some people may worry that a new station costs money. However, the school could ask the parent group or local businesses to help pay for it. A station near the gym would save time, support healthy habits, and reduce plastic waste. For these reasons, the principal should include a filling station in the next school improvement plan for students.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's claim?

2. What two reasons does the writer give in paragraph 2?

3. What evidence does the writer use to support the reason about reducing waste?

4. How does paragraph 3 respond to a concern about cost, and why does this make the argument stronger?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change you think your school should make. Write exactly five sentences that include a claim, two reasons, one fact or observation, a signal word such as First, and a concern with a response.

ANSWER KEY

Make the Case

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim. Circle facts or observations used as evidence, and number each reason that supports the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's claim?	**The school should add a water bottle filling station near the gym.**
2	What two reasons does the writer give in paragraph 2?	**The station could reduce plastic waste, and drinking water after exercise helps students replace fluid lost through sweat.**
3	What evidence does the writer use to support the reason about reducing waste?	**The writer cites the Environmental Protection Agency report that the United States generated more than 14 million tons of plastic containers and packaging as waste in 2018.**
4	How does paragraph 3 respond to a concern about cost, and why does this make the argument stronger?	**It suggests asking the parent group or local businesses to help pay. This strengthens the argument because it gives a practical answer to a possible concern.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the front entrance. First, a roof would keep bikes dry during rain. After rain, bikes left outside have wet seats and handlebars. Some people may worry about the cost, but the school could ask a local hardware store to donate materials. A covered rack would also encourage more students to ride bikes instead of coming by car.

Accept equivalent claims, reasons, and evidence that are clearly supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly five sentences and all required opinion-writing parts, including a reasonable response to a concern.