

Garden Argument Map

Find the parts that make an opinion convincing.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion. Circle each linking word, then number the reasons and evidence details that support the opinion.

A Garden for Our School

- ① Our school should build a small vegetable garden beside the playground. A garden would give students a place to learn outdoors and grow food. I believe the garden is a smart use of the empty sunny space. The project could help our school in several useful ways. It could also bring classes together for shared work.
- ② First, plants can show students how food begins. For example, students could watch bean seeds sprout, measure young plants, and record changes in a science notebook. These observations would make lessons more real because students would see each stage themselves. Teachers could use the garden during science, math, and writing lessons throughout the school day.
- ③ A garden could also improve the school grounds. Since vegetables and flowers attract bees and butterflies, students could observe pollinators near the plants. The harvest might be shared in a taste test or sent home with families. Therefore, a school garden would teach students, brighten the playground, and connect our school community in meaningful ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

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

2 What is one reason the writer gives for building the garden? Include one evidence detail that supports that reason.

3 Which linking word explains why garden observations would make lessons more real? What does it connect?

4 What concluding statement does the writer give? Name two results the writer says the garden would have.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one improvement you think your school should make. Write a three-paragraph opinion piece of 100 to 120 words that introduces the topic, states your opinion, gives at least two reasons with evidence or examples, uses linking words, and ends with a concluding statement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion. Circle each linking word, then number the reasons and evidence details that support the opinion. 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 a vegetable garden at school. The writer believes the school should build one beside the playground.
2	What is one reason the writer gives for building the garden? Include one evidence detail that supports that reason.	The garden would help students learn how food begins. For example, students could watch bean seeds sprout, measure plants, and record changes.
3	Which linking word explains why garden observations would make lessons more real? What does it connect?	Because. It connects the idea that lessons would be more real to the reason that students would see each stage themselves.
4	What concluding statement does the writer give? Name two results the writer says the garden would have.	The conclusion says a school garden would teach students, brighten the playground, and connect the school community. Any two of those results are correct.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school library should have a puzzle table. I think it would make the library better during indoor recess. Students could work quietly together while they wait for a book or class. Puzzles build thinking skills because players notice shapes, colors, and patterns. For example, an edge piece has a straight side that helps a student begin a section. Puzzles also teach teamwork since classmates can share ideas when a piece is hard to place. A puzzle table would not cost much, and families could donate complete puzzles. Therefore, the library should try this idea for one month. It would give students a calm choice and help them solve problems together.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the topic, opinion, reasons, evidence, linking words, and conclusion. For the open response, check for all required opinion-piece parts, logical reasons, relevant evidence or examples, and an ending that restates or completes the opinion.