Make Ideas Matter

See how an opinion uses reasons, images, and word choice.

4.T.T.3 "Opinion Techniques: Explain, analyze, and use opinion techniques to shape understandings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's opinion, circle three words or phrases that make the garden sound appealing, and number each reason that supports the opinion.

A Garden for Our School

(1) Our school should turn the empty strip beside the playground into a native plant garden. Native plants are kinds that grow naturally in our area. Their flowers can give bees and butterflies nectar, a sweet liquid they drink. A bright garden would also make the walk to recess feel more welcoming than a patch of bare dirt. This small change could help living things and students every day.

(2) Some people may worry that a garden would cost too much. Yet families could donate seeds, and students could start many plants in reused containers. The garden would not need fancy statues or a huge fence. By choosing local plants, the school could save water because these plants are suited to the rainfall here. A simple garden can be useful without being expensive.

(3) Picture a butterfly resting on purple flowers while students sketch it in science notebooks. That image helps us see what the garden could offer. The garden could become an outdoor place for observing insects, measuring plant growth, and reading quietly. School leaders should approve a garden plan this spring. Let us use one unused space to create a helpful, beautiful habitat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main opinion?

2. How does the author answer the worry that a garden would cost too much?

3. How does the sentence beginning “Picture a butterfly” help shape the reader's understanding of the garden?

4. Why does the author call the habitat “helpful” and “beautiful” near the end?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one school improvement other than a garden. Write exactly three sentences that state your opinion, give two reasons, use appealing words or an image, and ask someone to take action.

ANSWER KEY # Make Ideas Matter

GRADE 4 · 4.T.T.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's opinion, circle three words or phrases that make the garden sound appealing, and number each reason that supports the opinion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main opinion?	**The school should turn the empty strip beside the playground into a native plant garden.**
2	How does the author answer the worry that a garden would cost too much?	**The author says families could donate seeds, students could use reused containers, and the garden would not need expensive decorations or a large fence.**
3	How does the sentence beginning “Picture a butterfly” help shape the reader's understanding of the garden?	**It helps the reader imagine a beautiful garden where students can observe and sketch nature.**
4	Why does the author call the habitat “helpful” and “beautiful” near the end?	**The positive words make the garden sound valuable and appealing, supporting the request for leaders to approve it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water-bottle refill station near the gym. It would give thirsty students a quick place to fill reusable bottles, and it could reduce the number of plastic bottles tossed away. A clean, sparkling station would make choosing water easy, so the principal should add one.

Accept responses that identify the garden proposal and explain how reasons, positive word choice, imagery, or a response to a concern make the opinion stronger. For Part 3, accept any reasonable school improvement that includes all required opinion techniques in exactly three sentences.