

Grow a Strong Case

Read a model opinion piece and trace how its ideas connect.

5.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 and concluding statement, circle each linking word, and number the reasons. This will show how the writer connects an opinion to supporting ideas.

A Garden for Our School

- ① Our school should turn the empty corner near the playground into a vegetable garden. A garden would make recess and science time more useful. Students could help plan, plant, and care for it. I believe this project would improve our school because it would give us a living place to learn, work together, and grow food.
- ② First, a garden would strengthen science lessons. For example, students could measure plant growth each week and record changes in a notebook. They could observe insects and compare which plants need more water. Since vegetables come from plants, students would also see how food reaches a table. These hands-on observations can make class ideas easier to understand.
- ③ A garden could also build responsibility. Each class might have a small job, such as pulling weeds or checking the soil. Therefore, students would see that shared spaces stay healthy when everyone helps. The garden could provide herbs or vegetables for a school tasting day, too. For these reasons, the school should create a vegetable garden next spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the writer think the school should do?

2 Name one reason the writer gives for creating a garden. Then give one detail from the passage that supports that reason.

3 What two ideas does the word "Since" connect in paragraph 2?

4 What is the concluding statement, and how does it connect to the writer's opinion?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one improvement you think your school should make. Write three short paragraphs that introduce the topic and state your opinion, give at least two reasons with details, use because, for example, and therefore to connect ideas, and end with a concluding statement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion and concluding statement, circle each linking word, and number the reasons. This will show how the writer connects an opinion to supporting ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer think the school should do?	The school should create a vegetable garden in the empty corner near the playground.
2	Name one reason the writer gives for creating a garden. Then give one detail from the passage that supports that reason.	One reason is that a garden would strengthen science lessons. Students could measure plant growth each week and record changes in a notebook.
3	What two ideas does the word "Since" connect in paragraph 2?	It connects the fact that vegetables come from plants with the idea that students would see how food reaches a table.
4	What is the concluding statement, and how does it connect to the writer's opinion?	"For these reasons, the school should create a vegetable garden next spring." It repeats the writer's opinion and ends the piece.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the main entrance. It would make riding to school a better choice for more students. Rain can leave bicycles wet, and strong sun can heat their seats. Because a covered rack protects bicycles from weather, students could park with less worry. For example, a roof over the rack would keep rain off bikes during a storm. More students might choose to ride when they know their bikes have a dry place. Therefore, the school should add a covered bike rack.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage answers when students identify the correct opinion, reasons, evidence, linking ideas, and conclusion. For the open response, look for a clear opinion, at least two supported reasons, appropriate linking words, and a conclusion that returns to the opinion.