

Make It Clear

Notice how a writer organizes information for an audience.

6.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 in each paragraph that states its main point, and circle transition words or phrases that connect ideas so you can see how the writer guides the audience.

A Rain Garden for Our School

- ① During heavy rain, water can rush from our school parking lot into nearby storm drains. A rain garden beside the lot could slow that water and make the area more useful. Unlike a regular flower bed, a rain garden is a shallow planted area designed to collect runoff for a short time. Its deep-rooted plants and loose soil help water soak into the ground. This project would give students a visible example of how land, plants, and water work together.
- ② First, the garden would be placed where runoff already flows, not in the middle of a playing field. A shallow dip would hold water after a storm, and an overflow path would lead extra water toward the drain. Native plants, which grow naturally in this region, would be a practical choice because their roots can help hold soil in place. In addition, students could measure rainfall and observe which insects visit the flowers. These observations would turn the garden into an outdoor learning space.
- ③ Finally, a clear plan would help people understand how to support the project. The plan could show the garden's location, list the plants, and explain who would care for it during each season. It should also state that the garden is meant to manage rainwater, not to create a pond for swimming or fishing. By sharing this information in an organized order, the project team could answer questions before work begins. A rain garden would improve one small space while helping the school community learn from it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How does paragraph 1 introduce the main idea? Name the proposed project and the problem it would address.

- 2** How does paragraph 2 make its information easy to follow? Name one transition and explain the idea that comes after it.

- 3** Which sentence in paragraph 3 prevents a misunderstanding about the project? What misunderstanding does it prevent?

- 4** What information does the writer say a clear project plan should include? List three details.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-paragraph proposal for a small improvement at your school: paragraph 1 states a problem and solution, paragraph 2 explains two practical details or facts with a transition, and paragraph 3 tells what a clear plan would include. End paragraph 3 by explaining one benefit to the school community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that states its main point, and circle transition words or phrases that connect ideas so you can see how the writer guides the audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does paragraph 1 introduce the main idea? Name the proposed project and the problem it would address.	It proposes a rain garden beside the parking lot to slow rainwater rushing toward storm drains.
2	How does paragraph 2 make its information easy to follow? Name one transition and explain the idea that comes after it.	“First” introduces where and how the garden would be built. “In addition” adds ways students could use the garden for learning.
3	Which sentence in paragraph 3 prevents a misunderstanding about the project? What misunderstanding does it prevent?	“It should also state that the garden is meant to manage rainwater, not to create a pond for swimming or fishing.” It prevents people from thinking the garden will be a recreational pond.
4	What information does the writer say a clear project plan should include? List three details.	The plan should include the garden's location, the plants, and who will care for it during each season. It should also explain the garden's purpose.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many bicycles are left against fences or poles because the school has too few places to park them. The school should install a covered bike rack near the main entrance. First, the rack should be placed on a paved area so riders do not need to park on grass. In addition, each loop of the rack should let a rider lock a bicycle frame, which is more secure than locking only a wheel. A clear plan would show the rack's location, the number of spaces, and the person who will check it for damage. This improvement would keep bicycles organized and make it easier for more students to ride to school.

Accept answers that identify specific passage details and explain how organization, transitions, or precise information helps an audience understand the project. For the open response, accept varied school improvement ideas if the response has three paragraphs and includes all requested parts.