Build a Strong Case

Read a model argument and trace how its parts work together.

6.T.T.3.c "Apply argumentative techniques (e.g., author's claim, supporting relevant evidence, an identified counterclaim, and a logical conclusion) to enhance writing and engage audiences. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and logical conclusion, circle each piece of relevant evidence, and number the counterclaim 1 and the response to it 2. These marks will show how the author builds an argument.

A Better Way to Refill

1 Our school should install water refill stations in the hallway near the gym and cafeteria. Students often carry reusable bottles, but many must wait in line at a single fountain or buy bottled drinks. Refill stations connect to a building's water supply and usually include a spout that fills bottles quickly. Adding two stations would make it easier for students to choose water during busy parts of the day. This practical change could also reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles brought to school.

2 Some people may argue that refill stations cost too much to install and maintain. That concern deserves attention, because the school must use its money carefully. However, the school can compare prices, seek a local grant, or install one station first. The need is clear: a quick count after lunch found twelve students waiting with bottles at one fountain. A station near the cafeteria could shorten that line and give students more time to eat, talk, or get to class.

3 Refill stations will not solve every health or waste problem at school. Students will still make their own choices about drinks, and custodians will need to keep the stations clean. Even so, convenient access to water removes one barrier to using reusable bottles. The school should begin by planning for two stations, checking costs, and asking students where they would be most useful. With a careful plan, the school can improve daily routines while responding responsibly to concerns about cost and upkeep.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. Give two pieces of relevant evidence the author uses to support the claim.

3. What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author respond to it?

4. What action does the conclusion recommend, and what concern does it address?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different improvement for your school. Write five sentences that include a claim, two pieces of relevant evidence, a counterclaim with a response, and a logical conclusion.

ANSWER KEY

Build a Strong Case

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and logical conclusion, circle each piece of relevant evidence, and number the counterclaim 1 and the response to it 2. These marks will show how the author builds an argument. 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 claim?	**The school should install water refill stations near the gym and cafeteria.**
2	Give two pieces of relevant evidence the author uses to support the claim.	**Students wait in line at one fountain or buy bottled drinks, and a count after lunch found twelve students waiting with bottles at one fountain.**
3	What counterclaim does the author identify, and how does the author respond to it?	**The counterclaim is that stations may cost too much to install and maintain. The author says the school can compare prices, seek a grant, or install one station first.**
4	What action does the conclusion recommend, and what concern does it address?	**It recommends planning for two stations, checking costs, and asking students where they would be useful. It addresses concerns about cost and upkeep.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a shaded seating area near the playground. At lunch, students who want to sit outside often have only sunny tables. Shade can make an outdoor space more comfortable on hot, bright days. Some people may say the project would cost too much, but the school could begin with one canopy and compare prices. For these reasons, the school should plan a shaded area that students can use during lunch.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, evidence, counterclaim, response, and conclusion. For the open task, accept a reasonable school improvement if all required argument parts are present and the evidence supports the claim.