

Save the Aqueduct

Read a model argument about protecting a historic source.

L6-8WHST1 "Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim in the first paragraph. Circle each fact or proposal that supports it, then write 1 beside the counterclaim and 2 beside the writer's response.

A Choice for the Council

- ① Our town should protect the remains of the Roman aqueduct near the river before expanding the parking lot. An aqueduct is more than old stone. It shows how Romans carried water across long distances using gravity. Local historians found that the arches are part of a water route built nearly 2,000 years ago. If construction damages them, students and visitors will lose a direct piece of evidence about Roman engineering. Protecting the site would preserve a source that textbooks alone cannot replace.
- ② Some residents argue that the town needs every parking space because the river trail attracts many weekend visitors. This concern matters, but it does not require building on the aqueduct site. The town-owned field beside the library is unused on Saturdays and is a five-minute walk from the trail. Using that field for overflow parking would meet visitors' needs while keeping heavy machines away from the fragile arches. Therefore, the council should choose the field and protect the aqueduct.
- ③ The council can verify this plan by checking its Saturday parking count and asking a preservation expert to inspect the arches. These steps use evidence rather than guesses. A decision based only on convenience could erase information about how an ancient water system worked. In contrast, using a nearby field offers a practical solution and protects the historic source for future study. For these reasons, saving the aqueduct is the stronger choice, even though the town must still provide places for visitors to park.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does the writer claim the town council should do?

2 What fact about the arches does the writer use as evidence that they should be protected?

3 What opposing view does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer answer it?

4 Why would checking the Saturday parking count and asking an expert to inspect the arches strengthen the writer's argument?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A local museum can either repair a historic bridge or install a new entrance sign. Write one paragraph arguing which project it should fund. State a clear claim, use two relevant facts or realistic pieces of evidence, explain your reasoning, and acknowledge then answer one opposing view.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim in the first paragraph. Circle each fact or proposal that supports it, then write 1 beside the counterclaim and 2 beside the writer's response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer claim the town council should do?	The council should protect the Roman aqueduct and use the field beside the library for overflow parking.
2	What fact about the arches does the writer use as evidence that they should be protected?	Local historians found that the arches are part of a water route built nearly 2,000 years ago.
3	What opposing view does the writer acknowledge, and how does the writer answer it?	Some residents say the town needs every parking space for trail visitors. The writer answers that the unused field beside the library can provide overflow parking and is only a five-minute walk away.
4	Why would checking the Saturday parking count and asking an expert to inspect the arches strengthen the writer's argument?	Those steps would provide evidence about how much parking is needed and how fragile the arches are, instead of relying on guesses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The museum should use its funds to repair the 1912 stone bridge. The bridge is one of the few structures remaining from the town's early railroad era, so it provides evidence about how goods and people traveled. Engineers have said that repairing its loose railing now will cost less than replacing major supports later. Some people may prefer a new entrance sign because it is easier to see. However, a sign can be added later, while a damaged historic bridge may be lost forever.

Accept equivalent wording for the passage questions when students identify the stated claim, relevant evidence, counterclaim, and response accurately. In the open response, look for a clear position, two relevant supporting details with reasoning, and a fair opposing view followed by a response.