Make Your Point

Find how a writer states an opinion at the start.

3.W.2.a "State the opinion in an introductory statement or section."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the model. Underline the sentence in the first paragraph that states the writer's opinion, then circle the word in that sentence that shows the writer is suggesting a change.

A Place for Extra Seeds

1 What can you do with the seeds left in a packet after planting? Our school should start a seed swap shelf near the library. Instead of leaving extra seeds in a drawer, students could put them in labeled paper envelopes. Other students could take a few seeds to grow at home or in class. This simple shelf would help us share what we already have.

2 Each envelope could show the plant's name and the month the seeds were packed. Students could take only the seeds they plan to use. For example, one packet of sunflower seeds may hold more than one family needs. Sharing the extras means fewer seeds are forgotten. A teacher could check the envelopes so the shelf stays neat and easy to use.

3 The shelf could also bring families together. A student might bring bean seeds from a packet, while a classmate might bring marigold seeds. At pickup time, families could look at the shelf and talk about what they hope to plant. We do not need a large garden or fancy tools to begin. We only need a safe spot for small envelopes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the sentence in the first paragraph that states the writer's opinion.

2. What topic does the opening question introduce before the writer states an opinion?

3. Which word in the opinion sentence shows that the writer is suggesting a change?

4. Which words in the opinion sentence tell where the writer wants the shelf?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a change that would make your classroom more comfortable. Write a two- or three-sentence introduction that names the change and clearly states your opinion. Do not write about a seed shelf.

ANSWER KEY

Make Your Point

GRADE 3 · 3.W.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the model. Underline the sentence in the first paragraph that states the writer's opinion, then circle the word in that sentence that shows the writer is suggesting a change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the sentence in the first paragraph that states the writer's opinion.	**Our school should start a seed swap shelf near the library.**
2	What topic does the opening question introduce before the writer states an opinion?	**Seeds left in a packet after planting.**
3	Which word in the opinion sentence shows that the writer is suggesting a change?	**Should.**
4	Which words in the opinion sentence tell where the writer wants the shelf?	**Near the library.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our classroom gets noisy when everyone looks for supplies. We should keep pencils and erasers in bins at each table. Then we can get what we need without crossing the room.

For the marking job, students should underline the second sentence of the first paragraph and circle “should.” For Your Turn, accept any two- or three-sentence introduction about classroom comfort that names a change and clearly states the student's opinion.