The Compost Case

Trace how details support a proposal.

5.RC.9 "Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support claims in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which claims."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main claim and circle three reasons for it. Number each reason and a detail that supports it with matching numbers.

Should Our School Start Composting?

1. Our school should start a small compost project for fruit and vegetable scraps. One reason is that it would send less food to the trash. After lunch last Friday, I saw six banana peels and four apple cores in our class bin. Those scraps could have gone into a compost pail instead. A single class cannot solve every waste problem, but it can keep some scraps out of the garbage.

2. Composting could also help our school garden. When fruit peels and dry leaves break down, they become compost, a dark material that can be mixed into soil. Compost helps soil hold water, so garden plants may need less watering. Last spring, our garden's soil felt hard and dry by the end of recess. Mixing in compost could help the soil hold moisture and give roots room to grow.

3. Some students may worry that composting would be messy, but a simple plan could keep it manageable. We could place a covered pail near the lunch bins and put only fruit and vegetable scraps inside. Two students could empty it into an outdoor compost bin each afternoon. The lid would help keep flies away, and a short list on the pail would show everyone what belongs there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim? Give one reason the author uses to support it.

2. Which detail supports the reason that composting would keep scraps out of the trash? Explain the connection.

3. Which fact about compost supports the claim that composting could help the garden? Explain how.

4. Which two details support the author's idea that the project could stay manageable?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A classmate thinks the covered pail is the strongest support for starting a compost project. Choose a different detail from the passage, state which reason it supports, and explain why you find it more convincing than the pail detail.

The Compost Case

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim and circle three reasons for it. Number each reason and a detail that supports it with matching numbers. 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? Give one reason the author uses to support it.	**The school should start a compost project. One reason is that it would send less food to the trash.**
2	Which detail supports the reason that composting would keep scraps out of the trash? Explain the connection.	**The author saw six banana peels and four apple cores in the class bin after lunch. Those scraps could have gone into a compost pail instead.**
3	Which fact about compost supports the claim that composting could help the garden? Explain how.	**Compost helps soil hold water, so mixing it into the garden soil could help the plants get moisture.**
4	Which two details support the author's idea that the project could stay manageable?	**A lid on the pail would help keep flies away, and a short list would show students which scraps belong inside.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think the six banana peels and four apple cores are stronger evidence. This detail supports the reason that composting would keep scraps out of the trash. The count shows how many scraps just one class threw away after one lunch. A covered pail could help with flies, but the count shows there are scraps ready to compost.

Accept any passage detail that the student connects accurately to a reason. For Your Turn, look for a clear comparison with the covered pail detail, not just a repeated fact.