The Courtyard Choice

Use evidence to build a discussion.

6.CC "Students actively engage in listening, discussing, and presenting ideas using text and other sources of evidence to drive and demonstrate their thoughts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle proposed uses for the strip, underline details used as evidence, and number two places where one speaker responds to another. Use your marks to prepare for a discussion.

A Plan for the Strip

1 At lunch, the sixth-grade council met to decide how to use a narrow strip beside the basketball court. The strip was packed dirt, and students often crossed it on their way to the library. Maya proposed planting flowers there. "Last spring, I counted six butterflies near the only flower bed," she said. "More flowers might bring more." Eli asked whether anyone would still be able to walk across the strip. Maya paused, then agreed that a path would matter. The group wrote down both the flower idea and Eli's concern.

2 Jordan had a different idea: add two benches. "On Tuesday, I saw twelve students sitting on the ground while they waited for the library to open," he explained. Eli pointed out that a bench could block the shortcut if it sat in the middle. "So place benches along the wall," Jordan replied. Maya wondered whether flowers would survive near busy seats. Jordan suggested keeping the plants at one end, away from the benches. The group had not chosen a plan, but each question helped make the ideas more workable.

3 Before voting, the council checked a note from the custodian. It said the strip gets little sunlight after noon, and a watering hose reaches only the end near the library. Maya changed her proposal: choose flowers that grow in shade and plant them near the hose. Eli offered to sketch a walking path between the wall and the plants. Jordan agreed to ask the custodian whether benches could go against the wall. The group voted to try a path and a small planting area first, then revisit benches after getting an answer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What detail did Maya use to support her flower idea? Explain what that detail does and does not show.

2. How did Eli's question affect Maya's first idea? Use a detail from their exchange.

3. How did Jordan respond to Eli's concern about benches? Explain why Jordan's change addressed the concern.

4. How did the custodian's note shape Maya's revised proposal? Use two details from the note.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

With a partner, discuss whether the council should add benches now or wait. Tell your partner your view using a passage detail, listen to your partner's view, then write 3 or 4 sentences explaining both views and how you responded using evidence.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle proposed uses for the strip, underline details used as evidence, and number two places where one speaker responds to another. Use your marks to prepare for a discussion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What detail did Maya use to support her flower idea? Explain what that detail does and does not show.	**Maya counted six butterflies near the existing flower bed. That shows butterflies visited those flowers, but it does not prove that more flowers would bring more butterflies.**
2	How did Eli's question affect Maya's first idea? Use a detail from their exchange.	**Eli asked whether students could still cross the strip. Maya agreed that a path would matter.**
3	How did Jordan respond to Eli's concern about benches? Explain why Jordan's change addressed the concern.	**Jordan suggested placing the benches along the wall instead of in the middle, where Eli said they could block the shortcut.**
4	How did the custodian's note shape Maya's revised proposal? Use two details from the note.	**Because the strip gets little sunlight after noon, Maya proposed flowers that grow in shade. Because the hose reaches the end near the library, she proposed planting them there.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I told my partner the council should wait because Jordan still needs to ask the custodian whether benches can go against the wall. My partner said benches should go in now because Jordan saw twelve students sitting on the ground. I replied that those students need seats, but a bench in the middle could block the shortcut. We agreed that the council can try the path first while Jordan checks on the benches.

Accept different positions on the benches if the student accurately reports a partner's view and responds to it with relevant passage evidence. For the marking job, accept any two clear responses to another speaker, such as Maya's reply to Eli or Jordan's reply about bench placement.