Connect the Reasons

Follow how an argument moves from a claim to reasons and a response to a concern.

6.W.1.e "Use appropriate transitions that enhance the progression of the text and clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim. Circle words and phrases that connect ideas, then number the reasons in the order they appear.

A Game Shelf at Lunch

1 Our school should set up a small board game shelf in the library for lunch periods. Right now, students who finish eating early often have few choices besides sitting and waiting. For one thing, a game gives classmates a reason to talk face to face. During a round of checkers, players must explain moves, listen, and take turns. As a result, the shelf could help students practice friendly conversation instead of staring at a screen. A few sturdy games would be enough to get started.

2 In addition, a game shelf could make lunch more welcoming for students who are new to the school. Joining a game offers a simple way to meet people without needing to know anyone first. For example, a new student could ask to play a short card game. The game gives both players something to focus on while they get acquainted. Because games have clear turns and rules, students can join in without guessing what to say next. That makes a game shelf useful for more than entertainment.

3 Some people may worry that pieces will get lost or that games will be left scattered around the library. However, that problem has a practical solution. Students could check out one game at a time and return it before leaving. A simple list of pieces inside each box would make cleanup faster. These steps would protect the games without taking away the chance to play. Therefore, our school should try the shelf for one month and ask students and library staff how well it worked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which phrase introduces the first reason? What reason follows it?

2. In paragraph 2, what does “Because” connect? Explain how one idea leads to the other.

3. How does “In addition” connect the second paragraph to the first? Name both reasons.

4. What change in direction does “However” signal? How does “Therefore” bring the argument back to the claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph arguing for a new lunchtime choice at your school other than a game shelf. State a claim and two different reasons, address one possible concern, and use at least three transitions to connect your ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Connect the Reasons

GRADE 6 · 6.W.1.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim. Circle words and phrases that connect ideas, then number the reasons in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which phrase introduces the first reason? What reason follows it?	**"For one thing" introduces the reason that games give classmates a way to talk face to face.**
2	In paragraph 2, what does "Because" connect? Explain how one idea leads to the other.	**It connects games having clear turns and rules to students being able to join without guessing what to say.**
3	How does "In addition" connect the second paragraph to the first? Name both reasons.	**It adds a second reason: games can help new students meet people. The first reason is that games help classmates talk face to face.**
4	What change in direction does "However" signal? How does "Therefore" bring the argument back to the claim?	**"However" shifts from the worry about lost or scattered pieces to a solution. "Therefore" returns to the claim by proposing a one-month trial of the shelf.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should open a quiet drawing table at lunch. First, drawing would give students who need a break from noise a calm place to spend time. For example, someone could sketch a comic while waiting for the next class. In addition, students could share ideas and learn new ways to draw. Some people might worry about a mess. However, a small bin for pencils and a quick cleanup rule would keep the space tidy. Therefore, a drawing table would be worth trying for a few weeks.

Accept other accurate explanations of how each transition links the ideas around it. In the paragraph, look for two distinct reasons and transitions that clearly introduce reasons and address the concern.