The Last Word

Trace how a conclusion supports an argument.

C.9-10.1.f "Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the argument presented."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in the final paragraph that restates the main claim. Circle two details that connect to earlier reasons or concerns, and number the sentence that calls for action.

A Quiet Choice at Lunch

1. At lunch, the cafeteria can feel like the loudest room in school. Some students want to talk over their meals, but others need a quiet place to read or finish an assignment. Our school should open the library during lunch as an optional space, not a replacement for the cafeteria. A student with a book should not have to compete with the noise of a crowded lunchroom. A quiet option would let students use their break in different ways while keeping the cafeteria available for friends who want to eat and talk.

2. Opening the library would take planning, not just an unlocked door. A staff member already assigned to the library could supervise students if lunch coverage allows it; otherwise the school would need a workable schedule. Students could sign in at the desk and keep food in the cafeteria, where it belongs. Those rules would protect books and make the space easier to manage. The school could try the plan for a month and ask students and staff whether the room stayed quiet and useful. A trial would reveal problems before the school makes a permanent commitment.

3. A lunch period does not have to offer only one kind of break. By opening the library as a quiet option, the school could serve students who need calm without taking away the cafeteria from anyone else. Sign-ins, food rules, and a staff schedule would make that choice manageable rather than chaotic. A monthlong trial would let the school test the idea before committing to it for the year. The next step is simple: ask the principal and library staff to plan that trial. Students deserve a place to spend lunch that fits how they work and recharge.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the conclusion restate the passage's main claim without repeating it word for word?

2. Which detail in the conclusion connects back to the first paragraph's contrast between the library and cafeteria? Explain the connection.

3. How does the conclusion use the rules and staff schedule from the middle paragraph to support the claim?

4. Why does the conclusion call for a trial rather than immediately asking for a permanent change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you argued that the school should add bike racks near the entrance because they would offer secure parking and keep bikes out of the walkway, but the school is concerned about cost. Write a four-sentence conclusion that restates the claim, connects both reasons, addresses cost with a small first step, and ends with a specific action without adding new evidence.

The Last Word

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in the final paragraph that restates the main claim. Circle two details that connect to earlier reasons or concerns, and number the sentence that calls for action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the conclusion restate the passage's main claim without repeating it word for word?	**It describes opening the library as a quiet lunch option for students, rather than repeating that the school should open it during lunch.**
2	Which detail in the conclusion connects back to the first paragraph's contrast between the library and cafeteria? Explain the connection.	**"Without taking away the cafeteria from anyone else" recalls the first paragraph's point that students could choose a quiet space while others continue to eat and talk in the cafeteria.**
3	How does the conclusion use the rules and staff schedule from the middle paragraph to support the claim?	**It says sign-ins, food rules, and a staff schedule would make opening the library manageable.**
4	Why does the conclusion call for a trial rather than immediately asking for a permanent change?	**The middle paragraph says a trial would reveal problems before a permanent commitment, so planning a trial follows the argument's proposed approach.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school should add bike racks near the main entrance. They would give riders a secure place to park and keep bikes out of the walkway. To limit costs, the school could start with a small number of racks. The principal should approve that first set.

Accept equivalent wording when students accurately connect the conclusion to the passage's claim, reasons, and proposed trial. For Part 3, check that the four sentences conclude the given argument rather than introduce a new reason.