

Roots for Reasons

Trace a claim, ordered reasons, and source-based evidence.

5W1.b "Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details from various sources."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the claim. Number the two reasons 1 and 2, circle each source name, and box one fact that supports each reason.

Plant Native Flower Gardens

- ① Our town should plant native flower gardens in empty strips beside the library and playground. Native plants are species that grew in this area before most lawns and buildings. They can help pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, find food. This change would not require turning busy play spaces into gardens. Small, sunny strips already receive little use.
- ② First, native flowers can provide the pollen and nectar that pollinators need. The Xerces Society reports that many native bee species depend on particular plants for pollen. For example, local asters bloom in late summer, when some earlier flowers have faded. Planting several native kinds could offer food in spring, summer, and fall. This is a strong first reason because hungry pollinators need food before they can thrive.
- ③ Second, native gardens may use less water than lawns after plants are established. The University of Minnesota Extension says native plants are adapted to local climate and soil conditions. Their deep roots can help some prairie plants reach water below the surface. A garden team could mulch new plants and water them at first. Then the town could care for a useful space without watering a large lawn as often.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What claim does the writer make?

2 What is the first reason for the claim? Give one fact from the Xerces Society that supports this reason.

3 What is the second reason for the claim? Give one fact from the University of Minnesota Extension that supports this reason.

4 Why does the writer give the food reason before the water-use reason? Explain how this order helps support the claim.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 5 to 7 sentences arguing for one improvement at your school. State a claim, give two reasons in a logical order, and support each reason with a fact or detail from a different source you have read or researched.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the claim. Number the two reasons 1 and 2, circle each source name, and box one fact that supports each reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the writer make?	The town should plant native flower gardens in unused strips beside the library and playground.
2	What is the first reason for the claim? Give one fact from the Xerces Society that supports this reason.	The first reason is that native flowers provide pollen and nectar for pollinators. The Xerces Society reports that many native bee species depend on particular plants for pollen.
3	What is the second reason for the claim? Give one fact from the University of Minnesota Extension that supports this reason.	The second reason is that native gardens may use less water than lawns after they are established. The University of Minnesota Extension says native plants are adapted to local climate and soil conditions.
4	Why does the writer give the food reason before the water-use reason? Explain how this order helps support the claim.	The writer first explains how gardens directly help pollinators get food. Then the writer adds a practical reason about using less water, which makes the plan seem more workable for the town.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water-bottle filling station near the gym. First, it would make drinking water easier after active classes and recess. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says drinking water is a healthy choice. Second, it could help students refill reusable bottles instead of using single-use bottles. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explains that reducing and reusing materials conserves resources.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the claim, reasons, sources, and supporting facts. For the open response, accept a different school improvement if it has a clear claim, two logically ordered reasons, and relevant evidence from two named or clearly identified sources.