

Words That Convince

Read a model argument and notice how precise vocabulary strengthens a claim.

6W1.c "Use precise language and content-specific vocabulary to argue a claim."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that states the writer's claim, then circle five words or phrases that make the argument precise.

A Rain Garden for Riverbend

- ① Riverbend Middle School should install a rain garden beside the east parking lot. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that captures stormwater runoff from pavement. During heavy rain, water now flows across the sidewalk and carries soil into a curb drain. The proposed garden would use native plants and porous soil to slow the flow. This project would address a visible campus problem while creating a small outdoor learning site for science classes.
- ② Asphalt is an impermeable surface, which means that water cannot soak through it. When runoff reaches a rain garden, a basin temporarily holds the water. Plant roots and soil particles help water infiltrate the ground instead of racing into a storm drain. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and usually need less irrigation after they are established. These features connect the garden design to the runoff problem at the parking lot.
- ③ Maintenance would be manageable because mulch around the plants can suppress weeds and reduce evaporation. A landscape crew could inspect the basin after large storms and remove litter before it blocks the inlet. Students could measure rainfall, observe infiltration, and identify pollinators that visit the flowers. Those specific tasks show that the project has practical maintenance steps as well as academic value. The location is easy for classes to reach safely during the school day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's claim? Copy the complete claim sentence.

2 Copy two content-specific terms from paragraph 2. Then explain what one of the terms means in this argument.

3 How does the phrase "impermeable surface" support the writer's claim?

4 What two maintenance tasks from paragraph 3 make the project sound practical?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write an 80-110-word paragraph arguing for one improvement at your school. State one clear claim, give two reasons supported by relevant evidence, and use at least three precise, content-specific words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that states the writer's claim, then circle five words or phrases that make the argument precise. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's claim? Copy the complete claim sentence.	Riverbend Middle School should install a rain garden beside the east parking lot.
2	Copy two content-specific terms from paragraph 2. Then explain what one of the terms means in this argument.	Answers will vary. Terms include impermeable, runoff, basin, infiltrate, irrigation, and native plants. For example, impermeable means water cannot soak through the asphalt.
3	How does the phrase "impermeable surface" support the writer's claim?	It explains that water cannot soak through the asphalt, so rainwater becomes runoff that needs to be managed.
4	What two maintenance tasks from paragraph 3 make the project sound practical?	A landscape crew could inspect the basin after large storms and remove litter before it blocks the inlet. Accept mulch suppressing weeds and reducing evaporation as another practical maintenance detail.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our cafeteria should begin a compost collection program. Each day, students throw banana peels and other organic waste into trash cans, where it is sent to a landfill. In a compost bin, microorganisms break down these materials into nutrient-rich compost. The grounds crew could use that compost in flower beds, reducing the need for purchased fertilizer. Clear signs would prevent contamination by plastic wrappers and help students sort waste correctly. This program would turn a daily waste stream into a useful soil resource.

Accept answers that accurately identify the stated claim and use details from the passage. In the open response, look for one arguable claim, at least two relevant reasons or evidence details, and precise vocabulary connected to the chosen improvement.