

Lunch Space Debate

Trace how a writer builds an argument with reasons and evidence.

8W1 "Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main claim, circle each reason that supports it, and number the pieces of evidence that make the reasons believable.

Open the Library at Lunch

- ① Our school should open the library during lunch twice a week. Many students need a quiet place to finish assignments or read, yet the library is currently closed for most lunch periods. In a March student council survey of 180 students, 126 said they would use a quiet lunchtime workspace at least once a week. Opening the room would give students a useful choice besides the cafeteria or outdoor area when weather limits outdoor space.
- ② The plan is practical because the library already has tables, computers, and a staff member on duty for study hall. At Cedar Middle School, a nearby school, administrators reported that a two-day lunch library schedule required no new furniture and was supervised by the librarian and one rotating teacher. Our school could begin with Tuesdays and Thursdays for one month. This small trial would let students and staff track attendance, noise, and any scheduling problems before making a longer commitment.
- ③ Some people may worry that lunchtime library access would create extra work or draw students away from friends. However, the trial schedule limits the program to two days, and students could still choose other lunch spaces. The survey result shows that interest is substantial, not limited to a few readers. A quiet, supervised option can help students use lunch in ways that fit their needs. For these reasons, the principal should approve a one-month library-lunch trial next semester.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 What is the writer's main claim?

2 Choose one reason the writer gives for opening the library. What evidence supports that reason?

3 What concern does the writer acknowledge? How does the writer respond to it?

4 Why is the example from Cedar Middle School relevant evidence for the writer's argument?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement you support. Write a 90- to 110-word argument with a clear claim, two reasons, and a relevant fact, observation, or reasonable example for each reason. Include one concern someone might raise and respond to it.

[illegible]

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim, circle each reason that supports it, and number the pieces of evidence that make the reasons believable. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main claim?	The school should open the library during lunch twice a week, beginning with a one-month trial.
2	Choose one reason the writer gives for opening the library. What evidence supports that reason?	Answers may name the need for a quiet workspace, supported by the survey in which 126 of 180 students said they would use one, or the plan's practicality, supported by the nearby school's experience and the library's existing resources.
3	What concern does the writer acknowledge? How does the writer respond to it?	The writer acknowledges concerns about extra work or students missing time with friends. The response is that the program would run only two days and students could still choose other lunch spaces.
4	Why is the example from Cedar Middle School relevant evidence for the writer's argument?	It shows that a nearby school ran a two-day lunch library schedule without buying new furniture and with existing school staff, which supports the idea that the plan is practical.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the main entrance. First, it would protect bikes from rain, so students would arrive with dry seats and less risk of damaged equipment. On rainy days, I have seen bicycles left against the fence because the current rack has no cover. Second, a closer rack could make biking safer. At dismissal, students walking bikes must cross the crowded parking lot. Some people may say construction costs too much, but the school could seek business support or install a small rack first. A covered rack is a practical improvement for student cyclists.

Accept equivalent wording when students identify the claim, reasons, and evidence accurately. For Part 3, accept varied school-improvement claims if the response includes two relevant reasons, support for each reason, and a response to a concern.