Books Worth Buying

Read an opinion essay and study how its reasons work.

4.3.W.3 "Students will write opinion essays that: • introduce a topic and state an opinion • incorporate relevant, text-based evidence to support the opinion • use sentence variety and word choice to create interest • maintain an organized..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion, circle the three quotes used as evidence, and box the words that lead you from one reason to the next so you can see how the argument is built.

More Graphic Novels for Our Library

(1) What should our school library buy next? I think it should add more graphic novels. These books tell stories with words and pictures, but our shelves have only a few. The library's April request list says, 'Eighteen students asked for graphic novels, more than for any other kind of book.' When so many readers ask for the same kind of book, the library should listen.

(2) First, the books we already own are getting used. A library checkout note says, 'Every graphic novel on our shelves was checked out at least once last month.' That is not a pile of forgotten books! Some students may be waiting for a story they have not read yet. With more choices on the shelves, those readers could find a fresh adventure.

(3) Also, the library has room in its spring plan for new books. The plan states, 'We can buy six new books this spring.' Why not let some of those six be graphic novels? Students have asked for them, and the books on our shelves have been borrowed. For these reasons, adding graphic novels would be a smart way to use part of the book money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's opinion about what the library should buy?

2. Which detail from the April request list supports the writer's opinion? Explain how it helps.

3. How does the checkout note give the writer another reason for this opinion?

4. In the last paragraph, what does 'Also' signal? How does the question beginning 'Why not' add interest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Should students help choose the six new library books? Write one paragraph with your opinion, two details from the passage as evidence, at least two transitions, and varied sentence openings.

ANSWER KEY

Books Worth Buying

GRADE 4 · 4.3.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion, circle the three quotes used as evidence, and box the words that lead you from one reason to the next so you can see how the argument is built. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's opinion about what the library should buy?	**The library should buy more graphic novels.**
2	Which detail from the April request list supports the writer's opinion? Explain how it helps.	**Eighteen students asked for graphic novels, more than for any other kind of book. The detail shows that many students want them.**
3	How does the checkout note give the writer another reason for this opinion?	**Every graphic novel on the shelves was checked out at least once last month. This shows that students use the graphic novels the library already has.**
4	In the last paragraph, what does 'Also' signal? How does the question beginning 'Why not' add interest?	**'Also' introduces another reason. The question invites readers to think about using some of the book money for graphic novels.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students should help choose the six new library books. First, the April request list says, 'Eighteen students asked for graphic novels, more than for any other kind of book.' Students clearly have ideas about what they want to read. Also, the checkout note says, 'Every graphic novel on our shelves was checked out at least once last month.' Why guess what readers want when their requests and borrowing give us clues? For these reasons, the library should invite students to vote on the new books.

Accept either opinion in Part 3 if the student uses two relevant passage details, at least two transitions, and varied sentence openings. For the marking job, accept boxed phrases such as 'First,' 'Also,' and 'For these reasons.'