Books With a Voice

Read a model opinion essay, then write your own.

5.3.W.3 "Students will write opinion essays that: • introduce a topic and state a clear opinion • incorporate relevant, text-based evidence to support the opinion • use sentence variety and word choice to create interest • organize writing in a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline the writer's opinion, circle two details from written school records that support it, and number the transition words or phrases that guide you through the argument.

Let Students Help Choose Books

1 Who knows which library books students will race to read? Students do. Our school should let fifth graders help choose new library books. A short student vote each month would give the librarian useful ideas, not replace the librarian's judgment. When the people who read the books have a voice, the shelves can hold stories that truly interest them.

2 The library's May reading survey reports that 21 of 26 fifth graders want more mysteries. Its checkout list shows that mysteries were borrowed 38 times in one month, more than any other kind of fiction. These written records show that mystery stories are in demand. If students could suggest titles, the librarian could use both their choices and the checkout list to plan the next order.

3 Some people might worry that a student vote would leave out less popular books. However, the librarian could still choose books on many topics while setting aside a few spots for student picks. For example, a vote could offer choices from a list the librarian has already checked. In the end, sharing the choices would make our library feel more like a place built for its readers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What opinion does the writer state, and what plan would put it into action?

2. Choose one detail from a written school record. How does it support the writer's opinion?

3. How do "However" and "In the end" guide you through the argument?

4. How do the first two sentences create interest through sentence variety?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of five or six sentences arguing whether our school should create a student-written book review display. State your opinion, use one detail from the passage as evidence, explain how it supports your opinion, include two transitions, and vary your sentence openings.

ANSWER KEY

Books With a Voice

GRADE 5 · 5.3.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline the writer's opinion, circle two details from written school records that support it, and number the transition words or phrases that guide you through the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What opinion does the writer state, and what plan would put it into action?	**The writer thinks fifth graders should help choose new library books through a short monthly vote.**
2	Choose one detail from a written school record. How does it support the writer's opinion?	**The May survey says 21 of 26 fifth graders want more mysteries. This shows that students have reading interests the librarian could consider when ordering books.**
3	How do "However" and "In the end" guide you through the argument?	**"However" introduces a response to a concern about the vote. "In the end" signals the writer's final reason.**
4	How do the first two sentences create interest through sentence variety?	**The writer opens with a question, then follows it with the short answer "Students do."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a student-written book review display in the library. The library's May reading survey reports that 21 of 26 fifth graders want more mysteries. That result shows many students are eager to find stories in that genre. First, reviews could point readers toward mysteries already on the shelves. Also, students could recommend other books they love. Which book might you discover next?

For question 2, also accept the checkout-list detail about 38 mystery loans with a clear explanation. For the paragraph, accept either opinion if the passage detail is relevant and the student explains the connection.