Gardens With Purpose

Compare why three writers discuss community gardens

6.3.R.1 "Students will compare and contrast stated or implied purposes of authors writing on the same topic from a variety of historical, cultural, ethnic, and global perspectives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the three pieces. Underline one clue to each writer's purpose, and circle a phrase in each piece that shows when or where that writer is writing.

Three Voices on Community Gardens

1. 1943, United States, a neighborhood newsletter: Our empty lot could feed more than weeds. Many families are planting Victory Gardens while the country is at war. If we plant beans, carrots, and tomatoes together, we can bring fresh food to our tables and leave more farm crops for soldiers. We do not need fancy tools, just seeds, a patch of ground, and a plan for sharing the work. Please come to the lot on Saturday. Let us turn spare ground into food our neighbors can use.

2. Today, Seoul, South Korea, a resident's blog: In our apartment building, neighbors once rode the elevator without speaking. Then we planted a small garden beside the entrance. One neighbor showed me how she grows perilla leaves for meals at home, and I shared seeds from my aunt's peppers. Now people stop to trade tips, not just vegetables. The garden will not feed the whole building, but it gives us a reason to know one another. I hope other buildings will try a shared garden, too.

3. Today, Detroit, United States, a health worker's letter: A community garden can bring fresh produce to a city block, but digging first and asking questions later is risky. Soil near old buildings or busy roads may contain harmful substances, including lead. Before planting food, ask a local soil-testing service to check the site. If the soil is unsafe, raised beds filled with clean soil may be an option. I want neighbors to enjoy their harvest without taking an avoidable risk. A safe start makes a stronger garden.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the newsletter writer and the Seoul blogger both want readers to act? How do their reasons differ?

2. The Seoul blogger and the health worker both care about neighbors. How is each writer's purpose different?

3. Compare the newsletter writer's and the health worker's advice about starting a garden. Why does each give that advice?

4. Which detail suggests that the Seoul blogger values friendship more than the amount of food grown? How does that purpose contrast with the newsletter writer's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a school principal writing a note about a proposed school garden. In 5 to 6 sentences, give the principal a purpose different from those of the three writers, then compare it with the purposes of two writers using one detail from each piece.

ANSWER KEY

Gardens With Purpose

GRADE 6 · 6.3.R.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the three pieces. Underline one clue to each writer's purpose, and circle a phrase in each piece that shows when or where that writer is writing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the newsletter writer and the Seoul blogger both want readers to act? How do their reasons differ?	**Both want people to start a shared garden. The newsletter writer wants to grow food during wartime, while the blogger wants neighbors to get to know one another.**
2	The Seoul blogger and the health worker both care about neighbors. How is each writer's purpose different?	**The blogger hopes gardens will help neighbors connect. The health worker wants neighbors to check soil so they can grow food safely.**
3	Compare the newsletter writer's and the health worker's advice about starting a garden. Why does each give that advice?	**The newsletter writer invites neighbors to plant on Saturday to grow food during the war. The health worker advises testing the soil before planting to avoid a health risk.**
4	Which detail suggests that the Seoul blogger values friendship more than the amount of food grown? How does that purpose contrast with the newsletter writer's purpose?	**The blogger says the garden will not feed the whole building but helps neighbors know one another. The newsletter writer focuses on growing food for neighbors during wartime.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I want our school to build a garden where students can study plants during science class. They could measure growth and observe how insects visit flowers. The 1943 newsletter writer asks neighbors to plant so they can grow food during wartime. My main goal is learning, not adding food to families' tables. The Seoul blogger hopes a garden will help neighbors get to know one another, but I want students to use ours for science investigations.

Accept other supported comparisons between the writers' purposes. For the open task, the principal's purpose should be distinct from growing wartime food, building neighbor connections, and promoting safe planting.