A Shadier Space

Read a model argument, then write a focused thesis.

7.6.W.2 "Students will develop a clear, concise thesis statement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, circle its two reasons, and label one supporting detail for each reason in the later paragraphs with 1 or 2.

A Better Courtyard

1 At noon, the courtyard tables fill quickly, but most sit in full sun. On warm days, students carry lunches to the narrow strip of shade along the wall. That strip cannot hold everyone, and groups often split up to find cooler places. The tables already offer room to eat and talk, so moving them would waste useful space. Our school should install shade sails above the courtyard tables because they would make lunch more comfortable and create a useful spot for outdoor lessons.

2 A shade sail is a sheet of sturdy fabric stretched between strong supports. It blocks some sunlight without closing off the courtyard. Under a sail, students could use the tables on hot days instead of crowding against a wall. Teachers could also bring a class outside to read, discuss a story, or make observations. A shaded table would give students a place to write without squinting at a bright page. The courtyard would remain open to fresh air, but it would become easier to use.

3 Installing sails would take money, and the school would need to check the supports and fabric for wear. Some students might argue that repairing wobbly tables should come first. That concern is fair, since a sail will not make a broken table safe. The school could repair damaged tables before adding shade over the ones that remain. Even with that extra planning, the change would improve a space students already use every day. It would turn the courtyard into a more dependable place for meals and learning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence is the passage's thesis? Write it and underline the two reasons it gives.

2. Revise this statement into a one-sentence thesis about lunch comfort: “The courtyard has tables.” Use a position and one reason supported by the passage.

3. Narrow this broad claim into a one-sentence thesis about this courtyard and outdoor lessons: “Every school should build more outdoor spaces.” Use a reason from the passage.

4. Write a one-sentence thesis for a different plan: repair the tables before buying shade sails. Include a reason supported by paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change that would improve your classroom. Write one clear, concise thesis sentence that names the change and gives one specific reason.

A Shadier Space

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, circle its two reasons, and label one supporting detail for each reason in the later paragraphs with 1 or 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence is the passage's thesis? Write it and underline the two reasons it gives.	**Our school should install shade sails above the courtyard tables because they would make lunch more comfortable and create a useful spot for outdoor lessons.**
2	Revise this statement into a one-sentence thesis about lunch comfort: "The courtyard has tables." Use a position and one reason supported by the passage.	**The school should add shade sails above the courtyard tables so students can eat comfortably on warm days.**
3	Narrow this broad claim into a one-sentence thesis about this courtyard and outdoor lessons: "Every school should build more outdoor spaces." Use a reason from the passage.	**Our school should shade the courtyard tables so classes have a comfortable place to read and discuss stories outside.**
4	Write a one-sentence thesis for a different plan: repair the tables before buying shade sails. Include a reason supported by paragraph 3.	**The school should repair wobbly courtyard tables before buying shade sails because shade will not make a broken table safe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class should keep shared pencils in labeled bins because students could find supplies quickly when class begins.

For questions 2 through 4, accept other one-sentence theses with the requested position, focus, and a reason supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept a specific classroom change paired with a relevant reason.