From Idea to Plan

Trace how a first draft develops a proposal.

8.2.W.2 "Students will routinely and recursively organize and develop ideas to compose a first draft."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the proposal, circle one detail that makes the plan specific, and bracket the problem and its solution. These marks will help you see how the writer develops the idea.

The Loaner Umbrella Rack

1. On Tuesday, rain started just before dismissal, and the front steps filled with students waiting for rides. Some had umbrellas, but others tried to keep notebooks dry under their jackets. Our school should set up a loaner umbrella rack near the office. A rack would help students get to the bus stop or pickup area without arriving soaked. This is not a plan to buy fancy equipment. It is a way to share umbrellas that families no longer use, then return them for the next rainy afternoon.

2. The rack could start with ten donated umbrellas, each marked with a bright number on its handle. A student who needs one would write the number and date on a checkout sheet at the office. At the end of the next school day, the student would put the umbrella back in the rack. Keeping the rack beside the office matters because staff could see whether umbrellas are available without leaving their desks. If more students need umbrellas than the rack holds, the school could ask for more donations before buying anything.

3. Still, the rack would fail if umbrellas disappeared after one use. The checkout sheet would show which numbers had not come back, but it should not turn a rainy day into a punishment. A reminder over the morning announcements could ask students to return borrowed umbrellas, even if they forgot the exact date. At the end of each month, a student volunteer could count what remains and report the total to the office. That simple check would help the school decide whether the rack needs more donations or a better return system.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What proposal gives the draft its focus, and how does paragraph 2 build on it?

2. Which two actions in paragraph 2 belong together in a short explanation of how a student borrows and returns an umbrella?

3. Why does paragraph 3 mention umbrellas disappearing before it suggests an announcement reminder?

4. Which detail in paragraph 2 prepares the reader for the problem in paragraph 3? Explain the connection.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 6 to 8 sentences proposing a small change to your school or classroom other than an umbrella rack. State the proposal, develop it with two concrete details, then name one likely obstacle and a practical solution.

ANSWER KEY

From Idea to Plan

GRADE 8 · 8.2.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the proposal, circle one detail that makes the plan specific, and bracket the problem and its solution. These marks will help you see how the writer develops the idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What proposal gives the draft its focus, and how does paragraph 2 build on it?	**The writer proposes a loaner umbrella rack. Paragraph 2 explains how to stock it and how students would borrow and return umbrellas.**
2	Which two actions in paragraph 2 belong together in a short explanation of how a student borrows and returns an umbrella?	**The student writes the umbrella number and date on the checkout sheet, then puts the umbrella back by the end of the next school day.**
3	Why does paragraph 3 mention umbrellas disappearing before it suggests an announcement reminder?	**The missing umbrellas are the problem. Placing that problem first makes the reminder a clear response to it.**
4	Which detail in paragraph 2 prepares the reader for the problem in paragraph 3? Explain the connection.	**The numbered umbrellas and checkout sheet prepare readers for the problem because the school could use them to notice which umbrellas have not been returned.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should place a small supplies station near the library entrance. Students often arrive to study without a pencil or scrap paper. A labeled cup of donated pencils and a tray of clean paper would let them start work right away. A sign could ask students to take only what they need. Supplies might run out if no one checks the station. Once a week, library helpers could refill it from a donation box. This plan would make the library easier to use without asking staff to manage each pencil.

Accept different circled details if they make the plan more specific. In the final paragraph, look for a clear proposal, at least two concrete details, and an obstacle followed by a workable solution.