Make Your Case

Find what makes a thesis clear and defensible.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, circle the words that limit the proposal, and number two details that support it. These marks will help you see how a focused thesis connects to its reasons.

A Place for Games?

1. At lunch, the Cedar Ridge library has two kinds of visitors. Some want a quiet place to finish homework, while others want somewhere to spend time with friends without crowding the hallway. The librarian already keeps one side of the room for silent work, and the tables near the entrance are often empty. Rather than turn the whole library into a game room, Cedar Ridge should offer board games at the entrance tables two lunch periods a week while keeping the study side quiet.

2. A small game area would give students a shared activity that does not require a phone or special equipment from home. The library could keep a few familiar games behind the desk and ask players to put each one away before the bell. Tables near the entrance would make cleanup easy to supervise. Because the games would be available only twice a week, students who depend on the library for quiet work could still count on a calm space on the other days.

3. This plan has a real drawback: a lively game can distract someone reading nearby. That concern matters, especially for students who have nowhere else to study during lunch. Keeping games at the entrance and leaving the far side silent would reduce noise, though it could not erase it. If the room became too loud, the librarian could pause the games rather than close the library to everyone. A limited trial would let the school see whether a shared space can serve both groups.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What place and schedule make the writer's thesis precise?

2. Rewrite the claim "Games should be everywhere in the library every day" as a defensible thesis supported by the passage.

3. Which two details from the passage support the writer's thesis? Explain how each helps make the proposal workable.

4. What objection does the writer consider, and how does the limited proposal address it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school policy not discussed in the passage. Write one clear thesis that states your position and includes a realistic limit, then write two sentences explaining reasons that make it defensible.

ANSWER KEY

Make Your Case

GRADE 8 · 8.6.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, circle the words that limit the proposal, and number two details that support it. These marks will help you see how a focused thesis connects to its reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What place and schedule make the writer's thesis precise?	**The thesis specifies the entrance tables and two lunch periods a week.**
2	Rewrite the claim "Games should be everywhere in the library every day" as a defensible thesis supported by the passage.	**Cedar Ridge should offer board games at the library's entrance tables twice a week while keeping the study side quiet.**
3	Which two details from the passage support the writer's thesis? Explain how each helps make the proposal workable.	**The entrance tables are often empty, so games would not take over the study side. Keeping games behind the desk would let the librarian supervise them.**
4	What objection does the writer consider, and how does the limited proposal address it?	**Games could distract students who need quiet. The proposal keeps games near the entrance, preserves a silent study side, and allows the librarian to pause games if needed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should allow students to refill water bottles during the first five minutes of class, as long as they use the fountain nearest their classroom. A short refill window would give students a chance to get water without leaving lessons at random times. Keeping the refill period brief would also help teachers begin class on time.

Accept varied wording when the thesis takes a clear position with a specific limit and the cited support comes from the passage. For Part 3, accept any different school policy with a focused, defensible thesis and two relevant reasons.