

Linking a Proposal

Trace how an argument connects claims, evidence, and objections.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1c "Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB The town proposal is fictional. Underline expressions that connect ideas. Label their relationships, such as reason, added support, counterclaim, response or sequence.

A Plaza for the Library Block

- ① Our town should turn one unused paved lot near the library into a small public plaza with shade trees and benches. The lot now absorbs sunlight and offers no place for people waiting for buses or meeting after school. Because pavement can become much hotter than shaded ground on sunny days, trees would make the block more comfortable. In addition, a plaza would give the library room to hold outdoor readings and local groups a place to post events. These benefits support a modest project, rather than a costly new building.
- ② Some residents may argue that the lot should remain available for parking. Their concern deserves attention, since drivers need access to downtown stores. However, the site is only a short walk from two public parking areas, while its current condition serves people poorly when they are not driving. A design with a loading space and bike racks could address access without surrendering the entire lot to cars. Moreover, shade trees can reduce surface temperatures nearby, so the plaza would improve a daily experience that parking spaces cannot provide.
- ③ For these reasons, the council should fund a simple plaza plan and ask residents to review it before construction begins. First, planners could map the sunniest sections of the lot and place trees where their shade would reach benches and the bus stop. Then, the library and nearby businesses could help schedule uses for the space. Although the plaza would require maintenance, a clear plan for watering, trash collection, and repairs would make that responsibility manageable. By balancing access with comfort, the proposal answers the parking objection while advancing a more useful public block.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What is the main claim in paragraph 1? How does the clause beginning with 'Because' connect a reason to an expected benefit?

- 2** What counterclaim appears in paragraph 2? How does the word “However” signal the writer's response to it?

- 3** What relationship does “Moreover” create between the sentences around it in paragraph 2?

- 4** How do “For these reasons,” “First,” and “Then” organize paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Fictional school records: 18 of 24 surveyed cyclists say wet seats make riding uncomfortable; shelter costs are unknown; the library also needs new books. Write a 160-200-word, three-paragraph argument for or against seeking a priced bike-rack shelter proposal. Use the evidence, address a counterclaim, and use at least five purposeful linking expressions, including a counterclaim introduction and a response.

Link the reasoning across paragraphs

Vary sentence structure as well as transitions. Explain how the survey supports your claim and what it cannot establish. Connect the opposing concern to your response, then end with a justified next step. Keep all three paragraphs within 160-200 words. Do not invent costs or changes in cycling rates.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

The town proposal is fictional. Underline expressions that connect ideas. Label their relationships, such as reason, added support, counterclaim, response or sequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main claim in paragraph 1? How does the clause beginning with 'Because' connect a reason to an expected benefit?	The claim favors turning the paved lot into a public plaza. The Because clause connects hot pavement with the expected cooling benefit of tree shade; it explains a reason rather than reporting a local trial.
2	What counterclaim appears in paragraph 2? How does the word "However" signal the writer's response to it?	The counterclaim is that the lot should remain available for parking. "However" signals a contrast and introduces the writer's response that nearby parking exists and the current lot serves non-drivers poorly.
3	What relationship does "Moreover" create between the sentences around it in paragraph 2?	"Moreover" adds another supporting point. After explaining how the design could preserve access, it adds the benefit that shade trees can lower nearby surface temperatures.
4	How do "For these reasons," "First," and "Then" organize paragraph 3?	"For these reasons" connects the conclusion to the earlier argument. "First" and "Then" sequence the proposed planning and community-use steps.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Linked argument: Our school should request a priced design for a small shelter over the bike racks. Because eighteen of twenty-four surveyed cyclists report uncomfortable wet seats, rain protection responds to an identified concern. In addition, a shelter could make the racks more comfortable to use. The survey concerns current cyclists; it does not prove that covering the racks would increase the number of students who ride.

Some may argue that the library's need for books should take priority over a shelter. That concern deserves attention, since the school must consider students who do not cycle as well. However, requesting a costed proposal does not commit the school to construction. It gives decision makers information needed to compare priorities instead of assuming the shelter is either affordable or too expensive.

Although preparing a proposal takes staff time, a modest design and maintenance estimate would clarify the choice. For this reason, the school should gather those figures before allocating construction funds. If costs would crowd out more pressing needs, revise or reject the design. Thus, investigating the shelter can respect both the survey evidence and the budget objection.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept an argument for or against seeking the priced proposal. Require three real paragraphs, 160-200 words, relevant evidence, a fair counterclaim/response and at least five purposeful links. Model links include Because, In addition, Some may argue, since, However, Although, For this reason, If and Thus; syntax includes dependent clauses and contrasting sentences. The survey reports comfort among 24 current cyclists, not schoolwide cycling effects. Cost and book needs remain unresolved. Do not treat rhetorical predictions as measured results. The town and school records are fictional. Tree-shade background: U.S. EPA, Benefits of Trees and Vegetation, <https://www.epa.gov/heatlands/benefits-trees-and-vegetation>.