

Grow a Strong Case

Build an opinion with distinct reasons, evidence and connected paragraphs.

5.T.T.3.c "Apply opinion techniques to create opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion about the topic, supply reasons and evidence to support the opinion with linking words (e.g., because, therefore, since...)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline both sentences that state the writer's opinion in paragraph 1 and the concluding sentence in paragraph 3. Number the two main reasons. Circle linking words, and connect each supporting example to its reason. Notice that the garden activities are proposed examples, not results of an experiment.

A Garden for Our School

In this practice opinion piece, a student proposes a school improvement: Our school should turn the empty corner near the playground into a vegetable garden. Students could help plan, plant and care for it. I believe this project would improve our school because it would give us a living place to learn and shared work that builds responsibility.

First, a garden would strengthen science lessons. For example, students could measure plant growth each week and record changes in a notebook. They could observe insects and compare which plants need more water. Since vegetables come from plants, students would also see how food reaches a table. These hands-on observations can make class ideas easier to understand.

A garden could also build responsibility. Each class might have a small job, such as pulling weeds or checking the soil. Therefore, students would see that shared spaces stay healthy when everyone helps. For example, checking the soil would help a class decide when its plants need water. For these reasons, the school should create a vegetable garden next spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What improvement does the writer support, and what are the two main reasons?

2 Give one supporting example for each reason. Explain the connection.

3 How do Since and Therefore connect ideas in this opinion piece?

4 How does the concluding statement connect to the opinion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph opinion piece about a school improvement. State your opinion, develop at least two distinct reasons with relevant evidence or clearly labeled proposed examples, and conclude. Use linking words such as because, for example and therefore where they fit. You may choose your own topic or use this fictional case: bikes at Oak School get wet during rain; bikes sometimes block the entrance; a proposed covered rack would have marked spaces away from the doorway.

1. Introduce and state your opinion

Name the topic and your position. Preview your two distinct reasons. Label any invented school situation as a practice case.

2. Develop reasons and evidence

Explain both reasons. Give a specific supporting fact or proposed example for each and use linking words to show the connections.

3. Conclude

Bring the reasons together and restate the action or position you support. Avoid adding an unsupported new claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline both sentences that state the writer's opinion in paragraph 1 and the concluding sentence in paragraph 3. Number the two main reasons. Circle linking words, and connect each supporting example to its reason. Notice that the garden activities are proposed examples, not results of an experiment. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What improvement does the writer support, and what are the two main reasons?	A vegetable garden: it could strengthen science lessons and build responsibility.
2	Give one supporting example for each reason. Explain the connection.	Measuring plant growth connects the garden to science observations. Class jobs such as checking soil connect it to shared responsibility.
3	How do Since and Therefore connect ideas in this opinion piece?	Since explains why observing vegetables would show how food reaches a table. Therefore connects shared garden jobs to learning that everyone helps care for shared spaces.
4	How does the concluding statement connect to the opinion?	It calls for a vegetable garden next spring, returning to the proposed improvement after the reasons and examples.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Three-paragraph practice opinion

In the fictional Oak School case, I support a covered bike rack with marked spaces away from the doorway. It could protect parked bikes from much of the rain and keep the entrance clearer. Both reasons address problems in the case.

First, the case says bikes get wet during rain. Because the proposed rack has a cover, it could shelter the parked bikes, although wind-driven rain might still reach them. Second, bikes sometimes block the entrance. For example, using marked spaces away from the doorway would give riders a designated parking place instead of leaving bikes in the way.

A covered, organized rack could address both weather protection and parking location. These are different benefits supported by the problems described. Therefore, I think Oak School should consider the proposed rack.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess a clear opinion, at least two distinct reasons, relevant support for each, meaningful linking words and a conclusion. The model has three visible paragraphs and two distinct reasons: rain protection and clearer access. The Oak School facts are fictional and supplied for practice. For self-chosen topics, distinguish actual observations from proposed examples; do not present invented results or surveys as real evidence. Other paragraph organizations and linking words are acceptable if ideas remain connected.