

Rain Garden Reasons

Facts and craft moves can make a school plan persuasive.

4.P.EICC.4.e “Construct an initial draft by integrating ideas and information; selecting words, phrases, and sentences; and incorporating craft techniques that will best achieve the purpose of the text and resonate with the target audience. (C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts that support the writer’s idea. Circle two words or phrases that make the student council want to consider the plan.

Draft: A Rain Garden for Our Playground

- ① Should our playground send rain rushing into a storm drain, or could it help living things instead?

I am writing to the student council to ask for a small rain garden near the blacktop. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that catches rainwater flowing from hard surfaces. It can turn a puddle problem into a green, growing space.

- ② During a heavy shower, water cannot soak through pavement as easily as it soaks through soil. Plants in a rain garden slow some of that runoff, and their roots help hold soil in place. Native flowers can also offer nectar and pollen to bees and butterflies. These details show that one garden can help water, soil, and insects at the same time.

- ③ Imagine stepping outside after rain and seeing purple flowers instead of a wide gray puddle. A rain garden would make our playground brighter, while doing useful work. Student council members, please consider this plan when you choose projects for our school. Let us catch the rain, welcome pollinators, and make a space our whole school can watch grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 Who is the writer trying to persuade, and what does the writer want that audience to consider?

2 What are two facts the writer includes to show how a rain garden can help?

3 How does the question in the first sentence help persuade the student council?

4 Why is the final sentence a strong ending for this draft?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a two-paragraph draft of 70 to 90 words that persuades classmates to use reusable water bottles when available. For this fictional school, use these facts: refill fountains fill bottles again, and reusing bottles can create less trash than using a new throwaway bottle each time. Begin with a question or vivid image and end with a call to action. Choose friendly language that suits your classmates.

Paragraph 1: draw readers in

Begin with a question or vivid image. Introduce your idea and use the supplied information.

Paragraph 2: invite action

Complete your reasons using both supplied facts across the draft. End with a friendly call to action. Check that both paragraphs together have 70-90 words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two facts that support the writer's idea. Circle two words or phrases that make the student council want to consider the plan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the writer trying to persuade, and what does the writer want that audience to consider?	The writer is trying to persuade the student council to consider adding a small rain garden near the blacktop.
2	What are two facts the writer includes to show how a rain garden can help?	Plants can slow runoff and roots can hold soil in place. Native flowers can also provide nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies.
3	How does the question in the first sentence help persuade the student council?	It asks readers to compare rain going into a storm drain with rain helping living things, which makes them think about the better choice.
4	Why is the final sentence a strong ending for this draft?	It calls the student council to act and repeats benefits of the garden, including catching rain, welcoming pollinators, and creating a growing space.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Have you seen a trash can crowded with empty drink bottles after lunch? We can make that pile smaller. Our school has refill fountains that can fill a reusable bottle again and again.

Reusing a bottle can create less trash than choosing a new throwaway bottle each time. If you already have a reusable bottle, bring it along and refill it. Let us work together to keep our school cleaner, one refill at a time!

Accept supported answers about the student council, rain garden benefits and persuasive craft. The bottle task supplies the facts students need for a fictional school and applies the writing technique to a new topic. The model has two actual paragraphs and 75 words. Look for 70-90 words in two paragraphs, both supplied facts, a question or vivid opening, friendly language for classmates and an achievable call to action. Do not require children to buy a bottle. Marking examples include the runoff/roots/pollinator facts and the opening question, vivid flower image or invitation to act.