

Garden Argument Map

Find the parts that make an opinion convincing.

4.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 the first sentence, which states the opinion. Circle For example, because, Since and Therefore. Mark R beside the sentence beginning "First, plants" and E beside the example beginning "For example" to connect a reason with its support.

A Garden for Our School

Our school should build a small vegetable garden beside the playground. A garden would give students a place to learn outdoors and grow food. I believe the garden is a smart use of the empty sunny space. The project could help our school in several useful ways. It could also bring classes together for shared work.

First, plants can show students how food begins. For example, students could watch bean seeds sprout, measure young plants, and record changes in a science notebook. These observations would make lessons more real because students would see each stage themselves. Teachers could use the garden during science, math, and writing lessons throughout the school day.

A garden could also improve the school grounds. Since vegetables and flowers attract bees and butterflies, students could observe pollinators near the plants. The harvest might be shared in a taste test or sent home with families. Therefore, a school garden would teach students, brighten the playground, and connect our school community in meaningful ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What topic does the writer introduce, and what is the writer's opinion about it?

2 What is one reason the writer gives for building the garden? Include one evidence detail that supports that reason.

3 Which linking word explains why garden observations would make lessons more real? What does it connect?

4 What concluding statement does the writer give? Name two results the writer says the garden would have.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an improvement you think your school should make. Write one complete three-paragraph opinion piece: introduce the topic and state your opinion, support it with at least two reasons and a relevant example or evidence for each, then conclude. Use linking words to connect the parts.

1. Topic and opinion

Write an opening paragraph that names the school improvement and states your opinion clearly.

2. Reasons and support

Write the middle paragraph. Give at least two reasons, each supported by an example or evidence. Use linking words such as because, for example or since.

3. Concluding paragraph

Write a final paragraph that brings your reasons together and closes your opinion piece.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence, which states the opinion. Circle For example, because, Since and Therefore. Mark R beside the sentence beginning “First, plants” and E beside the example beginning “For example” to connect a reason with its support. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the writer introduce, and what is the writer's opinion about it?	The topic is a vegetable garden at school. The writer believes the school should build one beside the playground.
2	What is one reason the writer gives for building the garden? Include one evidence detail that supports that reason.	The garden would help students learn how food begins. For example, students could watch bean seeds sprout, measure plants, and record changes.
3	Which linking word explains why garden observations would make lessons more real? What does it connect?	Because. It connects the idea that lessons would be more real to the reason that students would see each stage themselves.
4	What concluding statement does the writer give? Name two results the writer says the garden would have.	The conclusion says a school garden would teach students, brighten the playground, and connect the school community. Any two of those results are correct.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school library should have a puzzle table. I think it would give students a useful choice during indoor recess.

Puzzles give us a chance to practice noticing patterns because we must study pieces closely. For example, we can match pieces by color or straight edges. A shared puzzle also gives classmates a reason to work together since one student can describe a missing piece while another searches for it.

Therefore, the library should try a puzzle table for one month. It would offer a calm activity where students could practice looking carefully and helping each other.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept supported descriptions of the opinion, reasons, examples, linking words and conclusion. The source is a fictional opinion piece: its proposed benefits are arguments and examples, not results of a reported experiment. The student must supply two reasons with support for each and write three actual paragraphs; the model demonstrates this format. Fifteen response lines support the complete opinion piece. There is no required word count. Personal or hypothetical examples are acceptable when clearly presented as examples; do not invent studies or present made-up measurements as observed evidence.