Build the Case

Analyze how an opinion writer uses claims, reasons, evidence, and structure.

5.T.T.3.a "Discuss and evaluate techniques used to present and design opinion and argumentative texts, including author's opinion or claim, supporting reasons, and evidence. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main claim. Number the two main reasons 1 and 2, and circle the two pieces of evidence that support the claim.

A Shaded Lunch Area

(1) Would you rather eat lunch in glare or in a cool, shaded spot? Our school should build a shaded outdoor lunch area near the cafeteria. It would give students a comfortable place to eat, talk, and recharge. A few sturdy tables under a canopy could turn an unused patch of pavement into a useful space.

(2) Shade would protect students from strong sunlight during lunch. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains that shade can help protect skin from ultraviolet rays. In a student council survey of 180 students, 142 said they would use an outdoor area more often if it had shade. This number gives a real reason to plan for a canopy, not just a guess.

(3) An outdoor area could also make the cafeteria less crowded. When the lunchroom is packed, students may have trouble finding seats and speaking at a normal volume. Because the plan helps students stay comfortable and creates more seating choices, school leaders should request canopy prices this month. That first step does not promise a costly project. It gives leaders the information they need to decide wisely and lets students see that their ideas matter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim?

2. What are the two main reasons the author gives for building the shaded area?

3. What two pieces of evidence does the author use to support the plan?

4. How do the opening question and the final request help present the author's opinion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one improvement for your school. Write a three-paragraph opinion text of 75 to 95 words that begins with a question, states a claim, gives two reasons, includes an accurate fact or a clearly labeled class survey result, and ends with a specific request.

ANSWER KEY

Build the Case

GRADE 5 · 5.T.T.3.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main claim. Number the two main reasons 1 and 2, and circle the two pieces of evidence that support the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	**The school should build a shaded outdoor lunch area near the cafeteria.**
2	What are the two main reasons the author gives for building the shaded area?	**Shade can help protect students from strong sunlight, and an outdoor area could make the cafeteria less crowded.**
3	What two pieces of evidence does the author use to support the plan?	**The author cites the CDC statement that shade can help protect skin from ultraviolet rays and a student council survey in which 142 of 180 students said they would use a shaded outdoor area more often.**
4	How do the opening question and the final request help present the author's opinion?	**The opening question helps readers picture the problem and choose between glare and shade. The final request tells school leaders a specific first action, asking for canopy prices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Could a covered rack help students bike to school? Our school should add one near the entrance.

A rack would keep bikes out of walkways, and a cover would keep seats dry. In our class survey, 18 of 24 students said they would bike more often with covered parking.

School leaders should price covered racks and share the cost at the next family meeting. This would give families a useful, practical and affordable first step.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, reasons, evidence, and technique effects when students point to the correct parts of the passage. For the open response, check for all required parts, logical reasons, and evidence that is accurate or clearly identified as a class survey result. The three-paragraph model contains 75 whitespace-delimited words. Its class survey is an illustrative model, not evidence of a real survey; learners must supply an accurate fact or label their own classroom survey. Check opening question, claim, two reasons, supporting fact and specific request.