A Corner Alive

Trace how a proposal moves from need to action.

9.T.SS.1.d "Apply knowledge of text structure and organization to create coherent and cohesive texts with an introduction that guides the focus and captures the audience; purposefully organized and developed supporting facts, reasons, explanations..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the proposal, number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 by their jobs, and circle two transition words or phrases. Your marks should show how the writer introduces, develops, and concludes the idea.

A Garden Between Classes

1 At noon, our courtyard has one predictable pattern: students crowd beneath the few trees or retreat indoors. The space could do more than hold benches. Our school should replace one unused patch of lawn with a native-plant garden and a narrow path of seats. This change would give students a calmer place to read, talk, or wait for rides. More important, it would turn an ordinary route between classes into a living place worth noticing. Instead of passing bare grass, we could enter a courtyard that feels designed for us.

2 Native plants are species that occur naturally in a region, so they are generally suited to its climate and soil. Once established, many need less watering than plants chosen mainly for appearance. Their flowers, leaves, and seeds can also provide food or shelter for insects and birds. A garden would therefore serve two purposes at once: it would improve the courtyard for people and create a small habitat. Students could add labels that identify each plant, making the path useful during science classes as well.

3 To begin, a student group could survey the area, choose local species with advice from a nursery or extension office, and plan the path. Then volunteers could plant during a service day and divide simple care tasks, such as checking new plants during dry weeks. The project does not need to transform the whole campus to matter. One planted corner can show that school grounds can welcome both learning and life. Let that corner be the first place we choose to notice each day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What specific change does the writer propose in the introduction?

2. What two purposes would the garden serve, according to paragraph 2?

3. How does paragraph 3 organize the steps for carrying out the proposal?

4. How does the final sentence create a memorable conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph proposal of 90 to 110 words for one practical improvement at your school. Introduce the improvement and why it matters, develop at least two specific reasons or details, and end with a conclusion that leaves a lasting image or idea.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the proposal, number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 by their jobs, and circle two transition words or phrases. Your marks should show how the writer introduces, develops, and concludes the idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What specific change does the writer propose in the introduction?	**The writer proposes replacing an unused patch of lawn with a native-plant garden and a narrow path of seats.**
2	What two purposes would the garden serve, according to paragraph 2?	**It would improve the courtyard for people and create a small habitat for insects and birds.**
3	How does paragraph 3 organize the steps for carrying out the proposal?	**First, students survey the area, choose plants, and plan the path. Then volunteers plant and share care tasks.**
4	How does the final sentence create a memorable conclusion?	**It focuses on one planted corner as a place people choose to notice each day, leaving the reader with a clear image and invitation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school library should open a small before-school study hour. Students who arrive early often wait in hallways, where noise makes it hard to review notes or finish homework. A quiet, supervised room would turn that waiting time into useful time.

The library already has tables, books, and computers, so the change would not require a new building. It could also help students who share crowded homes or have activities after school. A sign-in sheet would show whether enough students use the hour.

One open door could change the start of a day. Instead of beginning with hallway noise, students could begin with a plan and a place to work.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately identify the proposal, the two purposes, the sequence of actions, and the conclusion's effect. For Part 3, accept varied school improvements if the response has three clear paragraphs, focused development, and a memorable ending.