Garden Argument Map

Study how an opinion essay uses a claim, reasons, details, and a conclusion.

3.12.C "compose argumentative texts, including opinion essays, using genre characteristics and craft; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion, circle each reason that supports it, and number the three linking words that organize the reasons and conclusion. These parts help an opinion essay persuade a reader.

A Garden for Our School

(1) Our school should add a small vegetable garden near the playground. A garden would give students a peaceful place to learn outside. It could also make our lunches more interesting. We do not need a huge space. A few raised beds, seeds, and watering cans could begin the project. Teachers and families could help plan it.

(2) First, a garden can teach useful skills. Students can measure soil, read seed packets, and watch plants grow. For example, third graders could compare how bean plants change each week. These observations would make science lessons feel real. Students would practice being careful and patient, too. Those skills can help in the classroom as well as in a garden.

(3) Also, gardens can bring people together. One class could water on Monday, while another class could pull weeds on Tuesday. Families might donate tools or share advice about growing food. When people care for the same garden, they must listen and work as a team. For these reasons, our principal should approve a school vegetable garden this year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What opinion does the writer want the principal to accept?

2. What reason does the writer give in the second paragraph?

3. What example supports the reason in the second paragraph?

4. Which words begin the conclusion, and what do they show?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph opinion essay about whether your school should create a quiet reading corner in the library. State your opinion, give two reasons with details, use linking words such as First and Also, and end with a conclusion.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Argument Map

GRADE 3 · TEKS 3.12.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion, circle each reason that supports it, and number the three linking words that organize the reasons and conclusion. These parts help an opinion essay persuade a reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What opinion does the writer want the principal to accept?	**The principal should approve a small school vegetable garden.**
2	What reason does the writer give in the second paragraph?	**A garden can teach useful skills.**
3	What example supports the reason in the second paragraph?	**Third graders could compare how bean plants change each week.**
4	Which words begin the conclusion, and what do they show?	**"For these reasons" begins the conclusion. It shows that the writer is wrapping up the reasons and restating the opinion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a quiet reading corner in the library. It would give students a calm place to read.

First, a quiet corner could help students focus. Soft chairs and a small rug would make the space comfortable.

Also, students could choose books without noisy distractions. For these reasons, the library should add a quiet reading corner.

Accept answers that identify the claim, reasons, supporting examples, and conclusion from the passage. In the writing task, look for a clear opinion, two supported reasons, linking words, and a concluding statement. Require three visibly separated logical paragraphs, as in the sample.