Speak With Structure

Notice how a short report guides its listeners from idea to idea.

6.C.2.A.i "Report orally on a topic or present an opinion. This includes: Clearly communicating information in an organized or succinct manner."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or phrases that signal a change or connection between ideas. Underline one sentence that you think a listener should remember after the report.

A Cooler Schoolyard

1 Today I am reporting on a simple way to improve our schoolyard: planting shade trees. On sunny days, blacktop and playground equipment can become very hot. Trees give shade, but they also do more than block sunlight. Their leaves release water vapor, which can help cool the air nearby. A tree-planting plan would not change the schoolyard overnight. Still, it could make outdoor spaces more comfortable over many years while giving students a project they can help care for.

2 The plan has three practical benefits. One benefit is safer play. Shade can lower the temperature of surfaces, so benches and play areas may be less hot. Another benefit is cleaner air. Trees take in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and release oxygen. A final benefit is learning. Students could measure a young tree, record its growth, and learn how roots and leaves work. These benefits move from daily comfort to environmental health to classroom investigation.

3 To start this project, the school could ask a local tree expert which species fit the soil and available space. Next, classes could choose planting spots that do not block paths, signs, or sports areas. Families and community groups could join a planting day, and student teams could water new trees during dry weeks. In short, shade trees offer comfort, cleaner air, and hands-on learning. A careful plan can turn an open, hot area into a schoolyard that serves students in more ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What topic does the speaker introduce, and what result does the speaker say it could have?

2. What three benefits does paragraph 2 present, in order?

3. What does the speaker suggest doing before classes choose planting spots?

4. How do the final two sentences make an effective ending for the report?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 50-70-word script for an oral report that proposes one improvement to your school. State your main point, give two clear reasons in a logical order, and end by restating the benefit. Then give your report aloud to a partner or teacher. Ask the listener to state your main point and the two reasons in order. If anything is unclear, revise and repeat that part. Record one listener comment below. You may use your script and rehearse with support.

ANSWER KEY

Speak With Structure

GRADE 6 · 6.C.2.A.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words or phrases that signal a change or connection between ideas. Underline one sentence that you think a listener should remember after the report. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What topic does the speaker introduce, and what result does the speaker say it could have?	**The speaker introduces planting shade trees in the schoolyard. The trees could make outdoor spaces more comfortable over time.**
2	What three benefits does paragraph 2 present, in order?	**Safer play, cleaner air, and learning.**
3	What does the speaker suggest doing before classes choose planting spots?	**Ask a local tree expert which tree species fit the soil and available space.**
4	How do the final two sentences make an effective ending for the report?	**They summarize the main benefits and restate the overall result of the plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a refill water station near the gym. First, students could refill bottles after exercise instead of searching for a fountain. It would also reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles at games and practices. A station near the gym would make water easier to get and help our school create less waste.

Accept accurate paraphrases of passage ideas. For the oral-report script, accept any school improvement that has a clear main point, two logically ordered reasons, and a concluding statement of the benefit. Observe the actual spoken report. Check a clear main point, logically ordered reasons and concluding benefit, with a listener restatement and revision when needed. The written script alone does not complete this task. The sample contains 56 words; support rehearsal without requiring a public event.