A Garden Proposal

Study how a writer builds and organizes a clear proposal.

6.W.2 "Organization and Composition Generate and organize ideas using the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing) to develop multi-paragraph texts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first sentence, then circle the three bold sequence words, **First**, **Next**, and **Finally**, to show how a thesis and ordered reasons organize this proposal.

A Native-Plant Garden

1 Our school should replace part of its unused lawn with a native-plant garden. Native plants are species that grow naturally in a region without being brought there by people. A garden near the sidewalk could turn an empty-looking space into an outdoor learning area. Students could observe insects, record seasonal changes, and use the garden during science lessons. **First**, however, the project would need a sunny site, a plan for watering young plants, and help from volunteers.

2 The garden would also help local wildlife. Many bees and butterflies need nectar, pollen, or leaves from particular plants. For example, monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, so planting milkweed gives them food. **Next**, native plants usually need less water after their roots are established because they are adapted to local rainfall. This can reduce the time and water needed to care for the garden. Labels beside each plant could explain its role in the local ecosystem.

3 Some people may worry that the garden would cost too much or look messy. Those concerns can be addressed by starting with a small plot, using donated plants, and adding a clear border. **Finally**, students and families could take turns weeding and checking the plants. A native-plant garden would make the schoolyard more useful while giving local animals food and shelter. For these reasons, the school should create one together next spring near the main entrance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the thesis statement? What topic and position does it introduce?

2. What exact plant-and-animal example supports the idea that the garden would help local wildlife?

3. What do the bold words **First**, **Next**, and **Finally** show about the way the author organized the proposal?

4. What concern does the author acknowledge in paragraph 3? Name the three actions the author gives to address that concern.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90- to 110-word proposal in two paragraphs about one improvement your school should make. Begin with a clear thesis, include at least two relevant facts, details, or examples and two transition words, and end with a concluding statement.

ANSWER KEY

A Garden Proposal

GRADE 6 · 6.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the first sentence, then circle the three bold sequence words, **First**, **Next**, and **Finally**, to show how a thesis and ordered reasons organize this proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the thesis statement? What topic and position does it introduce?	**"Our school should replace part of its unused lawn with a native-plant garden." It introduces the topic of unused school lawn and argues for creating a native-plant garden.**
2	What exact plant-and-animal example supports the idea that the garden would help local wildlife?	**Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves, so planting milkweed would give them food.**
3	What do the bold words **First**, **Next**, and **Finally** show about the way the author organized the proposal?	**They signal that the author is presenting reasons and steps in an ordered sequence.**
4	What concern does the author acknowledge in paragraph 3? Name the three actions the author gives to address that concern.	**The author acknowledges that the garden might cost too much or look messy. The author suggests starting with a small plot, using donated plants, and adding a clear border.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add covered bike racks near the main entrance. Many students who live close enough to bike may avoid riding when they have no dry, secure place to leave a bicycle. **First**, a roof would protect seats and backpacks from rain. **Also**, racks with spaces for locks could help prevent bikes from falling or being taken.

Covered racks could support a healthier trip to school because biking is physical activity. **For example**, students could ride on mild days instead of asking for a car ride. The school could begin with a small number of racks. Therefore, covered bike racks are a practical improvement for many kinds of weather.

Accept accurate paraphrases for passage questions. For the open response, accept varied school improvements if the writing has two distinct paragraphs, a focused thesis, relevant support, transitions, and a concluding statement.