Make Your Case

Read a model speech, then plan one of your own.

5.SL.4 "Present on a topic, text, or opinion. Sequence ideas logically. Use appropriate facts and relevant descriptive details to support main ideas or themes. Speak clearly at an understandable pace."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main idea in each paragraph, circle words that show the order of ideas, and mark a slash where you would pause before the final reason.

A Garden for Rain

1. Imagine walking across the schoolyard after a hard rain. Water streams off the pavement and gathers in a muddy puddle beside the path. When rain falls on pavement, it cannot soak through as it does in soil. I think our school should plant a rain garden near that path. First, let's look at how this small garden could handle the runoff.

2. Next, a rain garden is a shallow planted area, not a pond. During a storm, water from the pavement can flow into the low spot. The water stays there briefly, then sinks into the soil. Plants that can handle both wet and dry conditions grow in the garden. Their roots help keep the soil loose, which lets water soak in.

3. Finally, think about what this means for our schoolyard. Less water rushing across the path could mean fewer muddy puddles after a storm. Flowers in the garden could also give bees and butterflies nectar when the plants bloom. A rain garden would not stop every puddle, but it could turn some runoff into a patch of living plants. That is why I support planting one.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What change does the speaker recommend? Which fact about pavement helps support that opinion?

2. How does paragraph 2 explain a solution to the puddle problem? Describe what happens to the water in order.

3. Which detail helps listeners picture what a rain garden looks like? How does that detail support the speaker's idea?

4. Which word signals that the speaker is moving to the garden's benefits? Where would a brief pause help listeners follow that shift?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence mini-speech recommending one change to your classroom or school. State your opinion, give two reasons with a relevant fact or detail for each, use order words, and add a slash (/) where you would pause when speaking.

ANSWER KEY

Make Your Case

GRADE 5 · 5.SL.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main idea in each paragraph, circle words that show the order of ideas, and mark a slash where you would pause before the final reason. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the speaker recommend? Which fact about pavement helps support that opinion?	**The speaker recommends planting a rain garden near the path. Rain cannot soak through pavement as it can through soil.**
2	How does paragraph 2 explain a solution to the puddle problem? Describe what happens to the water in order.	**Water flows from the pavement into the low spot, stays there briefly, and then soaks into the soil.**
3	Which detail helps listeners picture what a rain garden looks like? How does that detail support the speaker's idea?	**It is a shallow planted area, not a pond. The low area gives runoff a place to collect and soak in.**
4	Which word signals that the speaker is moving to the garden's benefits? Where would a brief pause help listeners follow that shift?	**"Finally" signals the shift. A pause before "Finally" would separate the explanation of how the garden works from its benefits.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our classroom should start a book swap shelf. First, students could share books they have finished. A shelf beside the door would make the books easy to find. / Next, a swap could offer more kinds of stories without buying new books. Students might bring mysteries, comics, and animal stories. For these reasons, I recommend a book swap shelf.

Accept other accurate details from the passage that support the speaker's opinion. For the mini-speech, check for a clear recommendation, two supported reasons in a logical order, order words, and a pause mark placed at a useful break.