

Speak Up, Garden

Read an opinion essay and notice how its parts work together.

3.12 "Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres. The student uses genre characteristics and craft to compose multiple texts that are meaningful..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's opinion. Number the two reasons that support it, then circle the sentence that asks readers to take action.

Keep Our School Garden

- ① Our school should keep the garden beside the playground. It is more than a patch of soil. In spring, classes can watch seeds push through the ground and become plants. Students can measure stems, notice insects, and learn where some foods begin. The garden gives us a real place to ask questions, not just a picture in a book.
- ② First, the garden can provide snacks for the cafeteria. Last year, the cooking club used lettuce and herbs grown by students. Fresh leaves and herbs can add color and flavor to a salad. Second, caring for the garden teaches responsibility. Each class can water, pull weeds, and return tools to the shed. These jobs show that shared spaces need shared care.
- ③ Some people may worry that the garden takes time to care for. We can solve that problem by making a weekly class schedule. A few minutes from each class would keep the beds healthy. Keeping the garden will help students learn, taste fresh food, and care for our school. Please ask the principal to keep this useful outdoor classroom.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the writer's opinion about the school garden?

2 What are two reasons the writer gives for keeping the garden?

3 What concern does the writer mention, and what solution does the writer give?

4 What does the writer ask readers to do at the end?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence opinion essay about whether the school should add a quiet reading corner near the library. State your opinion, give two reasons, tell how to solve one concern, and end by asking a reader to take action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's opinion. Number the two reasons that support it, then circle the sentence that asks readers to take action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's opinion about the school garden?	The writer thinks the school should keep the garden beside the playground.
2	What are two reasons the writer gives for keeping the garden?	The garden can provide food for the cafeteria, and caring for it teaches responsibility.
3	What concern does the writer mention, and what solution does the writer give?	The concern is that the garden takes time to care for. The solution is a weekly class schedule with a few minutes from each class.
4	What does the writer ask readers to do at the end?	The writer asks readers to ask the principal to keep the garden.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a quiet reading corner near the library. Students could read books there when they finish work. The corner could also give classmates a calm place to choose new books. It might cost money, but families could donate pillows or gently used chairs. Please ask our principal to make a reading corner.

Accept equivalent statements of the opinion, reasons, concern, solution, and call to action from the passage. For the writing task, look for five sentences with an opinion, two supporting reasons, a solution to a concern, and a closing request.