

Garden Opinion Hunt

Find the writer's main opinion and related claims.

3.9.E.i "identifying the claim;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim in paragraph 1. A claim tells the writer's main opinion or what the writer thinks should happen.

A Garden for Our School

- ① Some students think our school should build a small garden near the playground. A garden would give classes a place to study plants, insects, and weather. Instead of only reading about seeds, students could watch seeds sprout and measure growing stems. The garden would make science lessons more active and help students care for living things.
- ② The garden could also provide food for a class salad or soup. Students might grow lettuce, peas, or herbs in raised beds. They would learn that vegetables do not begin in a store. Teachers could use the garden during math, too, by asking students to count seedlings or compare the heights of plants. These activities would use space that is now empty.
- ③ Building a garden would take planning, but the school can start with a few beds and simple tools. Families and community helpers may donate seeds or help water plants during school breaks. A small garden would be worth the effort because it supports science, math, and healthy eating. Our school should create a garden that classes can use all year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the main claim in paragraph 1?

2 What does the writer think the school should build?

3 What claim about food appears in paragraph 2?

4 What claim does the writer restate in the last sentence?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one change you think your school should make. Write three sentences: state your claim in the first sentence, then give two reasons for it in the next two sentences. Underline your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim in paragraph 1. A claim tells the writer's main opinion or what the writer thinks should happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main claim in paragraph 1?	Our school should build a small garden near the playground.
2	What does the writer think the school should build?	A small garden near the playground.
3	What claim about food appears in paragraph 2?	The garden could provide food for a class salad or soup.
4	What claim does the writer restate in the last sentence?	The school should create a garden that classes can use all year.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a water bottle filling station. It would help students refill bottles instead of using disposable cups. It could save time because students would not need to wait at the drinking fountain.

Accept the exact claims from the passage or accurate paraphrases. For Your Turn, accept any clear school-related claim followed by two reasons that support it.