

Details Build Ideas

See how precise details strengthen a proposal.

5.11.B.ii “developing an engaging idea reflecting depth of thought with specific facts and details;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's main proposal. Circle three specific details that make the proposal clear and thoughtful, then number the circled details 1, 2, and 3.

A Garden That Helps

- ① Our school should build a rain garden beside the parking lot. During hard rains, water rushes from the blacktop toward the storm drain, carrying bits of oil, soil, and trash. A rain garden is a shallow area planted with native flowers and grasses. It would catch some of that runoff before it enters the drain.
- ② Native plants would do more than make the space colorful. Their roots help hold soil in place, and spaces in the soil allow water to soak down. Bees and butterflies could use the flowers for food. Because the garden would be near the sidewalk, science classes could measure rainfall and watch which insects visit each week.
- ③ Building the garden would take planning, but students could help. The school could ask a local garden group which native plants grow well in our area, then choose a site away from underground pipes. Students could sketch the design, label the plants, and explain the project to families. This small change could make our campus cleaner, greener, and more useful for learning.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What change does the writer propose for the school?

2 List two details from the first paragraph that show why the rain garden is needed.

3 How do the details about plant roots and soil spaces make the idea stronger?

4 Name one planning detail from the third paragraph. How does it show that the writer has thought carefully about the proposal?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence proposal for one useful change at your school. Use at least three specific facts or details, and include one step that would help the plan work.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's main proposal. Circle three specific details that make the proposal clear and thoughtful, then number the circled details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change does the writer propose for the school?	The writer proposes building a rain garden beside the parking lot.
2	List two details from the first paragraph that show why the rain garden is needed.	Water rushes from the blacktop toward the storm drain during hard rains, and the runoff can carry oil, soil, and trash.
3	How do the details about plant roots and soil spaces make the idea stronger?	They explain how the garden can hold soil in place and let water soak into the ground.
4	Name one planning detail from the third paragraph. How does it show that the writer has thought carefully about the proposal?	Students could ask a local garden group which native plants grow well in the area. This shows the writer considered choosing plants that fit the location.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the front entrance. Now, bicycles are locked to the fence, where rain leaves seats wet and chains rusty. A rack with a roof could hold 12 bicycles and keep the walkway clear. The principal could ask families how many students would bike, then choose a spot that does not block buses. This project would make biking to school safer and give more students a dry place to park.

Accept equivalent details and explanations that connect a detail to the strength of the proposal. For the open response, look for a focused school-change idea, at least three concrete details, and a realistic planning step.