

Make Recess Better

Study how an opinion essay uses claims, reasons, and a response to a concern.

5.12.C “compose argumentative texts, including opinion essays, using genre characteristics and craft; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim and conclusion, circle each reason, and number the sentence that states a concern and the sentence that answers it. These parts show how an opinion essay builds an argument.

A Refill Station for Recess

- ① Our school should add a water-bottle refill station near the playground. After running at recess, students often wait in line at the drinking fountain. A refill station would fill bottles quickly, so students could drink water and return to class ready to learn. It would also give students a simple way to choose water instead of sugary drinks.
- ② First, the station could reduce the crowd at the fountain. During a ten-minute recess, a long line means some children may not get a drink before the bell. Second, refill stations can help cut plastic waste. When students refill sturdy bottles, fewer single-use bottles need to be bought and thrown away. These benefits would help both students and the school grounds.
- ③ Some people may say that a refill station costs too much. However, the school could ask the parent group and local businesses to help pay for it. The station would serve students for many years, making the cost worthwhile. The principal should study prices and choose a durable model. Adding this station is a practical change that would make recess healthier and less wasteful.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's main claim?

2 What are the two reasons the author gives in the second paragraph?

3 How does the detail about the ten-minute recess support the author's argument?

4 What concern does the author address, and how does the author respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a six-sentence opinion paragraph arguing for one helpful change at school. State a clear claim, give two reasons with a specific example, address one concern with a response, and end by restating your opinion.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim and conclusion, circle each reason, and number the sentence that states a concern and the sentence that answers it. These parts show how an opinion essay builds an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's main claim?	The school should add a water-bottle refill station near the playground.
2	What are the two reasons the author gives in the second paragraph?	A refill station could reduce the crowd at the fountain and cut plastic waste.
3	How does the detail about the ten-minute recess support the author's argument?	It shows that students may not have enough time to wait in a long line and get a drink before the bell.
4	What concern does the author address, and how does the author respond to it?	The concern is that a refill station costs too much. The author says the parent group and local businesses could help pay, and the station would serve students for many years.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should create a quiet reading corner in the cafeteria. Some students finish lunch early and need a calm activity. A shelf of donated books would give them something useful to do instead of wandering between tables. The corner could also help students who need a peaceful place before afternoon classes. Some people may worry that books will be damaged, but a student helper could return them to the shelf each day. A reading corner would make lunchtime calmer and more useful.

Accept equivalent wording for the claim, reasons, concern, and response when it matches the passage. For the paragraph, look for all required argument parts and a clear six-sentence structure.