

Claim Catcher

Find the author's main position in an argument.

5.9.E.i "identifying the claim;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's claim, or main position, each time it appears. Then circle two sentences that give reasons for that claim.

A Garden by the Fence

- ① Our school should create a small native-plant garden beside the playground. Native plants are species that grow naturally in our region. Once they are established, many need less watering than grass or plants from faraway places. The garden could include labeled paths so classes could observe insects, seeds, and changing leaves throughout the year at close range.
- ② Some people may worry that a garden would take too much work. However, students, families, and local volunteers could help plant and weed it on scheduled days. Choosing hardy native plants would also reduce care. A garden would not replace the playground. It would use an unused strip of ground near the fence, leaving running and game spaces open.
- ③ Native gardens can help living things, too. Bees and butterflies may visit flowers for nectar, and birds may find insects or seeds nearby. Signs could teach visitors why native plants matter and how they support local habitats. For these reasons, the school should turn the unused strip by the fence into a native-plant garden next spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's main claim?

2 In which paragraph does the author first state the claim?

3 Copy one sentence that gives a reason to support the claim, not the claim itself.

4 What action does the author ask the school to take in the final paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini argument about one change you think the school should make. Underline your claim in the first sentence, then write two sentences that give reasons for it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim, or main position, each time it appears. Then circle two sentences that give reasons for that claim. 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 create a small native-plant garden beside the playground.
2	In which paragraph does the author first state the claim?	Paragraph 1.
3	Copy one sentence that gives a reason to support the claim, not the claim itself.	Answers may include: "Choosing hardy native plants would also reduce care."
4	What action does the author ask the school to take in the final paragraph?	Turn the unused strip by the fence into a native-plant garden next spring.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add covered bike racks near the front entrance. They would keep bicycles drier during rain. More students might choose to ride because they would have a safe place to park.

Accept the main claim if students state that the school should create a native-plant garden, even if they use slightly different wording. For Part 3, accept a clear opinion or recommendation followed by two relevant supporting reasons.