

Facts Take Sides

Track how evidence supports or challenges an argument.

5.9.E.ii “explaining how the author has used facts for or against an argument; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each fact in the passage. Write a plus sign beside facts the author uses for the garden and a minus sign beside facts that show a concern or challenge.

A Garden for Pollinators

- ① Our school should turn one unused grassy corner into a native-plant garden. Native plants are species that grew in an area before people brought in plants from other places. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that about three-fourths of flowering plants depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. A garden with native flowers could provide nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies.
- ② Some people may worry that the garden would need too much water. However, native plants are adapted to local weather once they are established. The National Wildlife Federation explains that native plants usually need less water than lawns and many nonnative garden plants. This fact supports the garden because the corner could need less watering than the grass growing there now.
- ③ Critics could say that buying plants costs money. Yet many native plants are perennials, meaning they live for more than two years and can return each spring. The garden would also require planning, weeding, and care, so that concern is real. Still, a small garden could be planted in stages, with families donating seeds or plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's main argument?

2 Name one fact the author uses to support the garden. Explain how it supports the argument.

3 What fact does the author use to show a challenge or concern about the garden? Explain why it works against the argument.

4 How does the fact about native plants being perennials respond to the concern about cost?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences arguing whether your school should add a refillable water station. Use both facts: reusable water bottles can be used many times, and a refill station must be bought and installed. Explain how one fact supports your argument and how one fact challenges it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each fact in the passage. Write a plus sign beside facts the author uses for the garden and a minus sign beside facts that show a concern or challenge. 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 argument?	The school should create a native-plant garden in an unused grassy corner.
2	Name one fact the author uses to support the garden. Explain how it supports the argument.	About three-fourths of flowering plants depend on animal pollinators. This supports the garden because native flowers could provide nectar and pollen for pollinators.
3	What fact does the author use to show a challenge or concern about the garden? Explain why it works against the argument.	The garden would require planning, weeding, and care. This works against the argument because it would take time and effort.
4	How does the fact about native plants being perennials respond to the concern about cost?	Perennials can live for more than two years and return each spring, so the school may not need to buy replacement plants every year.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a refillable water station. Reusable bottles can be used many times, so the station would support students who bring them. A station must be bought and installed, which is a cost against the plan, but the school could plan for that expense.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly connect each fact to support for or a challenge to the author's argument. For the open response, accept either position if the student uses both given facts accurately and explains each fact's role.