Claims in Action

Read an argument and identify the ideas a writer wants readers to accept.

6.8.E.i "identifying the claim;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every claim in the passage, including the claim from people who disagree. Put a star beside the author's main claim, the idea the writer most wants the school to accept.

Water Within Reach

1. At Pine Ridge Middle School, students should have more water-bottle refill stations. The cafeteria has one fountain, but a long line forms after lunch, and many students choose packaged drinks instead. Refill stations can quickly fill reusable bottles, so students can get water between classes. Installing more stations would also make it easier for students who carry bottles for sports practice. The school should place a station near the gym and another near the sixth-grade hall.

2. Some adults might claim that new refill stations cost too much. However, the school already spends money collecting piles of single-use bottles from lunch areas. A station that encourages reusable bottles could reduce that waste over time. Students could also bring bottles from home instead of buying a drink when the fountain line is long. The main issue is not whether students need water. It is whether the school should make drinking water easier to reach. More stations are a practical solution.

3. For these reasons, school leaders should ask students where lines are longest before choosing station locations. A short survey could show which hallways need easier access to water. The principal can then use that information to plan the project and explain the choice to families. More refill stations will not solve every problem at school, but they can improve a daily need. Pine Ridge Middle School should add them because students deserve a simple way to get water during the day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's main claim in the passage?

2. Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the author's main claim first?

3. What opposing claim does the author attribute to some adults in paragraph 2?

4. What claim about planning station locations appears in the first sentence of paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change you think your school should make. Write two sentences: one clear claim and one reason that could support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Claims in Action

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.8.E.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every claim in the passage, including the claim from people who disagree. Put a star beside the author's main claim, the idea the writer most wants the school to accept. 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 in the passage?	**Pine Ridge Middle School should add more water-bottle refill stations.**
2	Which sentence in paragraph 1 states the author's main claim first?	**"At Pine Ridge Middle School, students should have more water-bottle refill stations."**
3	What opposing claim does the author attribute to some adults in paragraph 2?	**New refill stations cost too much.**
4	What claim about planning station locations appears in the first sentence of paragraph 3?	**School leaders should ask students where lines are longest before choosing station locations.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the entrance. It would keep students' bicycles dry during rainy weather.

Accept claims that state a position, recommendation, or idea that could be supported or challenged. For Part 3, the first sentence should make a clear school-related claim, and the second sentence should give a relevant reason.