A Smarter First Step

Read a model argument that makes a well-informed judgment.

10.W.1.B.i "Write arguments that: Develop a thesis that demonstrates knowledgeable judgements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's main judgment. Circle words or phrases that show the writer weighs evidence, limits, costs, or fairness, then number three supporting details.

Shelter Where It Matters Most

1. Riverton should install shade shelters first at bus stops with the longest waits and highest daily use, rather than trying to upgrade every stop at once. In summer, riders can stand on exposed sidewalks for twenty minutes or more, especially when buses run less often after school and on weekends. A roof does not solve every transit problem, but it can make waiting safer and less exhausting. The city already collects ridership and schedule data, so it can identify stops where a shelter would serve many people. This targeted plan uses limited funds where they will matter most.

2. Critics may say shelters are too expensive because construction, cleaning, and repairs add costs. That concern is real, yet spreading a small budget across dozens of low-use stops could waste more money than concentrating it. The city can begin with a one-year pilot, compare ridership and maintenance records, and then adjust the design or location. It should also choose durable materials and leave enough sidewalk space for wheelchairs, strollers, and pedestrians. By planning for upkeep and access before building, Riverton can avoid treating a visible project as a complete solution.

3. Shade shelters would not replace reliable schedules, affordable fares, or safe crossings, but they are a practical first improvement that the city can measure. A stop used by many riders, located far from trees, and served by infrequent buses should rank ahead of a lightly used stop beside a covered storefront. Publishing the selection criteria would let residents see why some neighborhoods receive shelters first and would make the process easier to challenge if data are wrong. Riverton should approve the pilot and report its results publicly before expanding the program. That judgment balances urgency, fairness, and the city's actual capacity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's thesis? Copy or restate the main judgment precisely.

2. What two kinds of information does the writer say Riverton can use to choose stops? Explain how this information supports the thesis.

3. What concern do critics raise, and how does the writer respond to it?

4. Name one limit or condition the writer includes. How does it make the argument more knowledgeable?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement other than bus shelters. Write two or three sentences that state a debatable thesis and show a knowledgeable judgment by naming a benefit, a limit or cost, and a practical condition or priority.

ANSWER KEY

A Smarter First Step

GRADE 10 · 10.W.1.B.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's main judgment. Circle words or phrases that show the writer weighs evidence, limits, costs, or fairness, then number three supporting details. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's thesis? Copy or restate the main judgment precisely.	**Riverton should install shade shelters first at bus stops with the longest waits and highest daily use instead of upgrading every stop at once.**
2	What two kinds of information does the writer say Riverton can use to choose stops? Explain how this information supports the thesis.	**The city can use ridership data and schedule data. These help it identify stops that serve many people and have long waits, so limited funds go to the highest-priority locations.**
3	What concern do critics raise, and how does the writer respond to it?	**Critics argue that shelters cost too much to build, clean, and repair. The writer responds that a focused plan may waste less money than upgrading many low-use stops and proposes a one-year pilot to study costs and results.**
4	Name one limit or condition the writer includes. How does it make the argument more knowledgeable?	**Answers may include that shelters do not replace reliable schedules, affordable fares, or safe crossings; projects need upkeep and accessible sidewalk space; or the city should publish criteria and report pilot results. These limits show the writer considers tradeoffs, access, and accountability.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school should extend library hours two afternoons each week before adding a costly new study lounge. Students who wait for activities need quiet workspace, but the plan should begin only if staff coverage and late-bus access are available.

Accept theses that make a clear recommendation rather than simply naming a topic. Strong responses include a specific benefit plus a realistic limit, cost, condition, or priority that shows informed judgment.