Garden Learning Lab

Find topic sentences that introduce a central idea.

4.W.2.A.i "Engage in writing as a process to compose well-developed paragraphs. This includes: Providing an introduction that includes a clear topic sentence that connects to the central idea."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then circle one detail in each paragraph that supports the central idea about the school garden.

Our School Garden

1. Our school garden is a useful outdoor classroom where students learn by growing food. Behind the library, raised beds hold tomatoes, beans, lettuce, and herbs. Classes measure plants, pull weeds, and watch bees visit the flowers. The garden gives us real things to observe, so lessons become easier to understand and remember during the week.

2. Students can use the garden to practice important math and science skills. In math, they count seedlings and compare the heights of sunflowers each Friday. In science, they record which plants need more water and notice how insects help some flowers make seeds. These careful observations turn a small plot of soil into a place for meaningful learning.

3. The garden also teaches our school community to make thoughtful choices about food. When lettuce and herbs are ready, students harvest them and share them with the cafeteria staff. A class may taste a leaf of basil before deciding whether to add it to a recipe. By caring for the garden from seed to harvest, students see where fresh food begins.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What central idea does the first paragraph introduce?

2. Copy the topic sentence from paragraph 2.

3. Name one detail from paragraph 2 that supports its topic sentence.

4. How does the topic sentence in paragraph 3 connect to the passage's central idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence introduction about a school activity that helps students learn. Make your first sentence a clear topic sentence, then add two details that connect to that main idea.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Learning Lab

GRADE 4 · 4.W.2.A.i

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph. Then circle one detail in each paragraph that supports the central idea about the school garden. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central idea does the first paragraph introduce?	**The school garden is an outdoor classroom where students learn by growing food.**
2	Copy the topic sentence from paragraph 2.	**Students can use the garden to practice important math and science skills.**
3	Name one detail from paragraph 2 that supports its topic sentence.	**Students count seedlings and compare the heights of sunflowers each Friday.**
4	How does the topic sentence in paragraph 3 connect to the passage's central idea?	**It gives another way the garden teaches students, by helping them make thoughtful choices about food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school weather station helps students understand the changing sky. Each morning, a class reads the thermometer and records the wind speed. Their notes help them compare sunny, rainy, and cloudy days.

Accept topic sentences that clearly state the paragraph's main idea and connect to the chosen school activity. The two following sentences should give relevant details that support the topic sentence.