From Scraps to Soil

Study how a persuasive model organizes a claim, evidence, and a response to a concern.

5.W "The student will compose various works for diverse audiences and purposes, linked to grade five content and texts. Modes and Purposes for Writing Write personal or fictional narratives in prose or poetic form that organize the writing..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, number three sentences that support it, and circle the transition words First, However, and Therefore. These parts show how the writer organizes a persuasive piece.

A Compost Bin for Our School

1. Our school should add a compost bin near the cafeteria. Each day, students throw away banana peels, apple cores, and other food scraps that could become useful soil. Compost is made when tiny living things break down plant materials over time. Instead of sending these scraps to a landfill, our school can turn them into a resource for the garden.

2. First, composting would give our garden team material for healthier soil. When finished compost is mixed into garden beds, it adds organic matter and can help soil hold water. Fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and crushed eggshells can be composted, but meat, dairy foods, and oily foods should stay out because they can attract pests.

3. Some people may worry that a compost bin would smell or create extra work. However, the school could begin with one covered bin and teach students which scraps belong inside. A clear sign with pictures would make sorting faster. Therefore, adding a compost bin is a practical first step that would reduce waste and help our garden grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What position does the writer state in the first sentence?

2. How does paragraph 2 support the writer's position? Give two details from the paragraph.

3. What concern does paragraph 3 raise, and how does the sentence beginning with However respond to that concern?

4. What does Therefore signal in the final sentence, and how does that sentence conclude the piece?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one persuasive paragraph of 5 to 7 sentences about one improvement your school should make. State your position, give two reasons with a concrete detail or fact, use a transition word, respond to one possible concern, and end with a concluding statement.

ANSWER KEY

From Scraps to Soil

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the writer's position, number three sentences that support it, and circle the transition words First, However, and Therefore. These parts show how the writer organizes a persuasive piece. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What position does the writer state in the first sentence?	**The writer believes the school should add a compost bin near the cafeteria.**
2	How does paragraph 2 support the writer's position? Give two details from the paragraph.	**It explains that compost adds organic matter and can help soil hold water. It also names compostable scraps, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and crushed eggshells.**
3	What concern does paragraph 3 raise, and how does the sentence beginning with However respond to that concern?	**The concern is that a compost bin might smell or create extra work. The However sentence responds by suggesting that the school start with one covered bin and teach students which scraps belong inside.**
4	What does Therefore signal in the final sentence, and how does that sentence conclude the piece?	**Therefore signals a conclusion or result. The final sentence restates the position by saying a compost bin would reduce waste and help the garden grow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should place a water bottle filling station near the gym. After practice, many students wait at the one drinking fountain in the hallway. A filling station would refill bottles quickly and could reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles students buy. Some people may worry that the station would cost too much. However, the school could ask the PTO and local businesses to help pay for it. Therefore, a filling station would save time and give students an easy way to choose reusable bottles.

Accept underlining of the first sentence as the clear position and reasonable numbering of sentences that give reasons, facts, examples, or solutions. For the paragraph, accept varied school-improvement topics if the writing has a clear position, organized support, a response to a concern, transitions, and a conclusion.