Make Your Case

Study how a persuasive model uses claims, evidence, and transitions.

7.W "The student will compose various works for diverse audiences and purposes, linked to grade seven content and texts. Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or to alter an existing text..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim and the conclusion. Circle each transition word or phrase, then number two details that support the claim.

A Place for Bikes

(1) Our school should install covered bike racks near the main entrance. At present, students who ride bicycles leave them along fences or carry locks through the day. This crowded setup can block walkways and expose bikes to rain. A covered rack would give riders one clear place to park. It would also show that the school values safe, active travel. For these reasons, the principal should include bike racks in the next campus improvement plan.

(2) First, bicycle racks can make arrival safer and more orderly. During a five-day count, the student council found 18 bicycles parked at fences or signposts near the entrance. Those places were not designed for parking and left handlebars sticking into the walking path. In contrast, a rack keeps bicycles upright and together. Because students and visitors use the entrance each morning, clear walkways matter. Therefore, covered racks would solve a real safety problem for everyone at school.

(3) Additionally, covered racks may help more students choose to ride. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that young people ages 6 through 17 need 60 minutes or more of physical activity daily. Riding to school can add movement to a student's day. A protected place to park removes one worry about riding, especially when rain is expected. Although racks will not make every student bike, they give interested riders a practical option. The principal should approve the project this year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main claim?

2. Which detail from the student council count supports the writer's safety reason?

3. How does the phrase In contrast help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?

4. How does the CDC information support the proposal for covered bike racks?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a persuasive paragraph of 4 to 5 sentences proposing one improvement for your school. State a clear claim, include two relevant details from your observations or a reliable source, use at least one transition, and end with a concluding sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Make Your Case

GRADE 7 · 7.W

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim and the conclusion. Circle each transition word or phrase, then number two details that support the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main claim?	**The school should install covered bike racks near the main entrance.**
2	Which detail from the student council count supports the writer's safety reason?	**The count found 18 bicycles parked at fences or signposts near the entrance.**
3	How does the phrase In contrast help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?	**It shows the difference between unsafe, scattered bicycle parking and the orderly parking a rack provides.**
4	How does the CDC information support the proposal for covered bike racks?	**It shows that young people need daily physical activity, and riding to school can add movement to a student's day.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should keep the library open for thirty minutes after the final bell. Many students wait for late buses in the noisy cafeteria, where it is hard to finish homework. In addition, the library already has tables, computers, and a staff member there during that time. This quiet space would help students use waiting time to complete assignments. Therefore, the school should try the extended hours for one semester.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the claim and evidence-based explanations of the transitions. For the paragraph, accept varied school proposals when the writing includes a claim, two relevant supporting details, a transition, and a conclusion.