

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

1 **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**A student is writing an argumentative letter to Sammy's Sub Shop for class about unnecessary greetings to guests. The student wants to revise the draft to establish and introduce a claim. Read the draft of the letter and complete the task that follows.**

To whom it may concern:

I think it is completely rude to stop helping the customer in front of you to yell a greeting at the customer coming through the door. I would like to come in without being startled and simply wait my turn. When I arrive at the counter to tell you what delicious sub I want, you are more than welcome to tell me that I am welcome. The greatest part about being at the counter when you welcome me, is that you will not need to yell at me. I am sure the customers will also like not being yelled over while they choose what sandwich they want.

I hope you will take this into consideration. I would greatly appreciate a change of store policy. I hope to experience a more enjoyable visit during my next sub lunch.

Sincerely,  
A Sandwich Eater

**Choose the paragraph that would make the *best* introduction to establish and introduce a claim.**

- A. Although I appreciate the gesture, I do not find it necessary for an employee to yell, "Hi! Welcome to Sammy's Sub Shop!" when a customer comes into your restaurant. I do not enjoy the attention that is drawn to me. Everyone standing in line stops to stare at me as I enter.
- B. I would be more likely to come back to your store if you change the greeting policy. I do not appreciate your current policy.

- C. I really like the way the employees greet customers as they come in. I feel very

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

Master ID: 478411 Revision: 1

Correct: **A**

Rationale:

- A. Correct answer
- B. Student(s) may not have read the task carefully. Student(s) may not have realized that this is not in the letter, and should not be included in the introduction.
- C. Student(s) may not have read the task carefully. Student(s) may not have realized that this contradicts what the letter says.
- D. Student(s) may have thought that they were supposed to choose the paragraph that has the point of view of the restaurant rather than the claim of the customer.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.W.6.1.a

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

## King Valley Middle School

Dear Principal,

We, the students of King Valley Middle School, are concerned about the decision to remove the three trees that are in front of the school. We know that you think there is an important reason to get rid of them, but before you do, please consider the following reasons why we should keep them.

All three of the trees have been in front of the school since the 1950s. Since that time, they have grown to be very large and beautiful. When people pass by our school, the first thing they see is the trees. When they think of King Valley Middle School, they always remember the trees. If the trees were cut down, the school would be changed forever.

Our school windows face south, and in the afternoon, the Sun gets very hot. The trees shade the classrooms from the Sun. This is what cools us down. This should make you happy because it would save money since we don't use the air conditioner a lot during the hot months.

The trees were also there when some of our parents went to this school. They like the idea that we're enjoying the same trees that they did. If you let them cut down the trees, it will destroy our families' memories. We tried to picture the school without them; it's hard to imagine the school without the trees.

Please think about these reasons before you make the decision to cut down the trees. We know you'll do the right thing by letting the trees continue to beautify and shade our school.

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Class at King Valley Middle School

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "King Valley Middle School".

**2 TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**Which statement from the passage is used as a form of propaganda in support of saving the trees?**

- A. ...they have grown to be very large and beautiful.
- B. ...it would save money since we don't use the air conditioner a lot during the hot months.
- C. All three of the trees have been in front of the school since the 1950s.
- D. ...it's hard to imagine the school without the trees.

Master ID: 38517 Revision: 1

Correct: **B**  
Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have realized that this is just a personal description of the trees.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may not have realized that this is purely a factual statement about the trees.
- D. Student(s) may not have realized that this statement is simply an observation rather than a persuasive statement used for propaganda.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RI.CCR.8  
CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.8  
CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.10

**3 TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**The author of the letter states the following conclusion.**

If you let them cut down the trees, it will destroy our families' memories.

**Why is it appropriate for the author to state this conclusion?**

- A. It tells the principal the facts that explain what would happen without the trees.
- B. It is used to make the principal think about how others might feel about the trees.
- C. It shows the principal what the school would look like without the trees.
- D. It explains the author's opinion, which should not be used in this type of letter.

Master ID: 42206 Revision: 1

Correct: **B**  
Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have realized that this "opinion" does not contain any facts.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may have confused the intention of this "opinion" with the way the school would "look" without the trees.
- D. Student(s) may not have realized that, at times, it is good to include one's opinion within this type of letter.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RI.CCR.8  
CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.8  
CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.10

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "King Valley Middle School".

4 **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

**Read this paragraph from "King Valley Middle School" and answer the following question.**

Our school windows face south, and in the afternoon, the sun gets very hot. The trees shade the classrooms from the sun. This is what cools us down. This should make you happy because it would save money because we don't use the air conditioner a lot during the hot months.

**The author *most likely* includes this paragraph to**

- A. show the principal how the windows block the sun.
- B. convince the principal to buy new air conditioners.
- C. explain that it is impossible to study in a hot classroom.
- D. provide an argument for not cutting down the trees in front of the school.

Master ID: 30687 Revision: 1

Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have misunderstood the point about the windows, which is that, on the contrary, the windows do not block the sun but instead they let the sun come through into the classrooms and heat up the school.
- B. Student(s) may not have read the paragraph carefully since the letter only points out that keeping the trees in front of the school would save money on using air conditioners during the summer months.
- C. Student(s) may have assumed that it might be impossible to study in a hot classroom, but there is no evidence of this in the letter, only that it gets very warm in the afternoons in school.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.1

CCSS.LA.6.RI.6.10

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

5 **TEACHER READS:**  
Read and complete the task that follows.

**Read the claim below about the types of foods schools should be allowed to sell to students.**

Allowing schools to sell soda and candy to students is a good idea.

**Write a short paragraph that supports this claim. Include at least two reasons or pieces of evidence that directly support the above claim in your response.**

Write your answer on the lines below.

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Master ID: 334946 Revision: 1  
Rubric: 2 Point(s)

- 2 The response:
  - Includes at least two reasons or pieces of evidence that are related to the topic of whether schools should be allowed to sell junk food to students
  - Presents points that directly support the claim that schools should be allowed to sell soda and candy to students

Although candy and soda are not the best choices for a snack, there are a number of reasons why allowing schools to sell these foods to students is a good idea. First, giving students access to less than nutritious foods can help them learn about making good food choices and eating junk food in moderation. After all, they will see junk food at every corner store and possibly at home. Teachers can talk with students about healthy and not so healthy choices, and students can learn that it is okay to have a treat every now and then. Secondly, allowing schools to sell soda and candy could be a way for schools to raise much-needed funds. Unless junk food is totally banned from a school, there is a good chance students will just bring it with them. Since students will eat junk food while they are at school anyway, it makes sense for the school to get the money spent on these foods. This extra money can then be used to support school programs and purchase equipment for classrooms and labs.

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

1 The response:

- Includes one reason or a single piece of evidence that is related to the topic of whether schools should be allowed to sell junk food to students
- Presents a point that directly supports the claim that schools should be allowed to sell soda and candy to students

Although candy and soda are not the best choices for a snack, there are a number of reasons why allowing schools to sell these foods to students is a good idea. First, giving students access to less than nutritious foods can help them learn about making good food choices and eating junk food in moderation. After all, they will see junk food at every corner store and possibly at home. Teachers can talk with students about healthy and not so healthy choices, and students can learn that it is okay to have a treat every now and then.

0 A response receives no credit if it does not contain any reasons or pieces of evidence related to the topic of whether schools should be allowed to sell junk food to students, and does not present any points that directly support the claim that schools should be allowed to sell soda and candy to students.

Candy and soft drinks are high in calories and do not contain the substances people need to stay healthy.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.6.W.6.1.b