

NONFICTION

4TH & 5TH GRADE

RI.4.8/5.8

REASONS & EVIDENCE



support points



grown produce improves food access and nutrition, particularly in underserved neighborhoods known as food deserts. Additionally, urban farming initiatives create opportunities for job creation, skill development, and entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the economic growth of urban areas.

Critics of urban farming may argue that the limited space and resources in urban environments pose significant challenges to its feasibility. However, advocates counter with examples of innovative urban farming techniques such as vertical farming, hydroponics, and rooftop gardens, which maximize space efficiency and resource utilization. Furthermore, studies have shown that urban agriculture can have positive environmental impacts, including reducing the urban heat island effect, improving air quality, and promoting biodiversity. With a growing body of evidence supporting its efficacy, urban farming is poised to play a pivotal role in building resilient and sustainable cities for the future.

of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eat Organic

When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy. Think again. The food you eat? Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam-packed with chemicals.

Organic food is much healthier than conventional food. Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically? In modern times, farming has changed. Conventional farming uses modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Despite the changes in methods, our bodies have not changed. We are not built to consume harmful chemicals. And "organic" doesn't meet a standard. Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals. Conventional animals that are farmed for meat are raised on soy and corn, which is 90% GMO. Their food has hormones and antibiotics.

Cows are given growth hormones. This makes them produce more milk. Hormones cause health problems. Infections need to be treated with antibiotics. All of these chemicals make their way into your food when you consume a cheeseburger or hot dog.

Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly. Animals are overcrowded. They live in unsanitary conditions. They are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer. Many animals raised at conventional farms never see the light of day. Organic farms have higher standards for animals. Organic farmers cannot use antibiotics or growth hormones. The feed for animals must be organic. They are required to live in clean and safe conditions. Animals are not allowed to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives. Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy.

Model 4th

Reasons Support Points

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the following text. Answer the questions to demonstrate comprehension.

Raising Backyard Chickens

Raising chickens in one's backyard has emerged as a popular trend among urban and suburban communities seeking a sustainable lifestyle. Backyard chicken keeping offers a variety of benefits for individuals and communities alike. One compelling reason for raising backyard chickens is the assurance of a fresh and reliable source of eggs. Unlike store-bought eggs, backyard eggs are known for their superior taste, vibrant yolks, and higher nutritional value, as the hens have access to a varied diet and roam freely in a natural environment.

How REASONS Support



WHAT'S INSIDE?

How REASONS support POINTS

When an author makes a point, or a claim, he or she supports it with reasons and evidence.

A **Reason** is why the author believes his or her point is true.

Evidence are the facts that support his or her point.

Author's Point

Reason

Evidence **Evid**

To determine how an author's point is supported:

1. Read the text.
2. Ask yourself, "What does the author's point say?"
3. Skim the text and ask, "Why does the author say that?"
4. Ask yourself, "What evidence supports the author's point?"

790L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Eat Organic

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Organic food is much healthier than conventional food. Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically? In modern times, farming has changed. Conventional farming uses genetically modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Despite the changes in farming methods, our bodies have not changed. We are not built to consume harmful chemicals. Food labeled "organic" meets a standard. Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals. Conventional animals that are farmed for consumption are raised on soy and corn, which is 90% GMO. Their food has hormones and antibiotics. Cows are given growth hormones. This makes them produce more milk. Hormones cause cows to get infections. Infections need to be treated with antibiotics. All of these chemicals make their way into your food when you consume a cheeseburger or hot dog.

Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly. Animals are overcrowded. They live in unsanitary conditions. They are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer. Many animals raised at conventional farms never see the light of day. Organic farms have higher standards for animals. Organic farmers cannot use antibiotics or growth hormones. The feed for the animals must be organic. They are required to live in clean and safe conditions. Animals are cage free. Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures. Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives. Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy.

Organic food is better for our environment. Organic farmers do not use synthetic fertilizers, weed killers, or pesticides on their crops. These chemicals cause pollution. The National Water Quality Inventory conducted a study. They found that pollution from agriculture in the United States is the largest factor affecting the water quality of rivers and lakes. Also, a lot of organic food is distributed locally. Less energy is needed to transport the food. This helps reduce global warming.

Next time you go grocery shopping, look for the green USDA Organic symbol. Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment.

PRINTABLE PDFs and **DIGITAL** Google Slides covering the 4th and 5th grade text complexity band with Certified Lexile Levels.

- Anchor charts and question sets
- Color coding to encourage students to use text evidence
- AND two assessments on nonfiction reading passages

Printable and Google Slides Included 



10 NONFICTION PASSAGES

860L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Say No to Plastic Bags

If you're still using plastic bags for shopping, think again. There are many reasons not to use plastic bags. Instead, we should use paper or reusable bags. Bags made out of cotton, for example, can be used over and over again. This is better for the planet because we don't throw them away after each use.

Plastic bags cause a lot of pollution. Plastic bags don't dissolve. Most plastic is made from a combination of petroleum and natural gas.



910L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Do You Really Need to Wear a Bicycle Helmet?

Do you roll your eyes and complain every time your mom reminds you to put on your helmet before taking your bike out for a ride? It seems so unnecessary to wear a bike helmet when you know that you're a good rider. After all, you're not planning to fall off your bike. Plus, if you're just riding your bike in the street in front of your house, do you really need to waste time putting on a helmet that looks so silly? The answer is absolutely! There are several good reasons as to why you need to wear a helmet, but let's focus on three.

The first and most important reason is that a helmet protects your brain if you do fall or have an accident. Nearly 90% of all cyclist brain injuries can be prevented by wearing this piece of equipment. If you tried to squeeze an egg between just your two index fingers, it wouldn't break because the pressure would be spread across the shell of the egg. This is what bike helmets do. They help divide the pressure evenly if you fall and hit your head so that the helmet breaks instead of your skull. Of course, this only works if your helmet is designed well and you wear it correctly. The helmet wraps around your head and needs to be fitted in place for it to keep your head and brain safe if you have an accident. Make sure that the helmet covers your forehead and that the straps are tight every time you wear it. This is the only way to make sure that the helmet will keep you safe.



The second reason for wearing a helmet is that accidents happen to even the best riders. It might even happen to you! Most people who have accidents while riding a bike injure their heads or faces in some way. By just wearing a helmet, you can keep yourself safer 50% of the time if you do fall. In 2015-2016, there were nearly half a million bicycle accidents in the United States of America. Nearly 1,000 people in these accidents died because they injured their heads. Many of them weren't wearing bike helmets. Cyclists make up 2% of all road deaths. Not everyone who has an accident dies. Sometimes they injure their faces badly or they damage their brains. This has an effect on them for the rest of their lives. The cost of treating these injuries is also high. This is why it's important to wear a helmet every time you ride your bike so that if you do fall and hit your face or head, the injuries will definitely not be as bad as they would be without the helmet.

910L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Do We Need Sleep?

Sleep is essential for our bodies to function. People are supposed to get between 7-8 hours of sleep every night. Sleep helps people be the best they can be both physically and mentally.

Most people do not get enough sleep at night. The average person gets between 4-6 hours of sleep nightly. This can cause a lot of issues.

People who are not sleeping enough are at a much greater risk of developing life-threatening diseases like heart and kidney disease. Sleep deprivation can also increase your risk of stroke and cause you to have high blood pressure. Sleeping for an adequate amount of time will help your body rest, repair, and stay healthy.

Weight gain is a common problem that results from lack of sleep. A lack of sleep can cause hormones and your metabolism to be thrown off balance, and it causes issues with processing food. People who get adequate sleep have been known to eat fewer calories. One study showed that with each hour of sleep lost, the odds of becoming obese went up.

Lack of sleep affects a person's mood. People who are deficient in sleep are less productive at work and in school. Sleep-deprived people can be irritable, forgetful, and even become depressed. A study done by the Mental Health Foundation found that people who didn't get enough sleep were four times more likely to be depressed.

A shortage of sleep can also be unsafe. A lack of sleep causes a person's reaction time to be slower. This can cause car accidents. Some people may even fall asleep while driving. According to the NHTSA, falling asleep while driving causes about 100,000 crashes, 7,000 injuries, and 1,550 deaths each year in the United States.

Sufficient sleep is vital to a healthy body and mind. If you do not get the right amount of sleep, you will suffer physically and emotionally. Next time you are contemplating staying up an extra hour to catch up on your favorite television show, think about the benefits of sleep instead.



790L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____


The Great Milk Debate

It is important for kids to drink milk. Milk has calcium and vitamin D. This helps build your bones. The benefits of milk are undeniable. There is a great debate about the type of milk you should consume. Many people are upset that schools are giving children chocolate milk instead of regular milk. Children are much more likely to opt for chocolate milk because of its sugary taste.

Chocolate milk still provides the same benefits of white milk, chocolate milk is just a flavored milk. Chocolate milk can contain as much sugar as soda. Some school children drink chocolate milk for breakfast and lunch. Would you drink soda for both breakfast and lunch? Two cups of chocolate milk contain forty percent more sugar than two cups of white milk. That's four times as much sugar as you should have each day!

Chocolate milk can cause health problems. Children that consume too much sugar can become overweight. Excess sugar can also increase hyperactivity. More seriously, excess sugar can cause Type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is another result of obesity. If you are a child who develops diabetes, you cannot process sugar.

When you are at the cafeteria line at school, think twice before you opt for chocolate milk. It is a healthy choice.



900L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Save the Snakes



Many people are fearful of snakes. They are sneaky and sly. They are also very dangerous. The fact of the matter is that snakes have just as much of a right to be here as humans. As we encroach on their habitats, encounters with snakes are bound to happen. If you come across one of these sly reptiles, leave the snake alone. Humans should not kill snakes.

Snakes are a large part of our ecosystem, and their survival affects many other living things. They help reduce the rodent and insect population, which helps make sure that our crops and homes are safe from pests. Snakes regularly shed their skins. Their skins are high in nutrients, so when the skins decompose, nutrients are returned to the soil.

Humans use snake venom in medicines and vaccines. A toxin from the saw-scaled viper's venom helped scientists develop the drug tetrofiban, which prevents blood from clotting. Snake venom is also necessary for the creation of antivenoms to treat people who are bitten by poisonous snakes. Snakes are important to the advancement of science and medicines, so killing snakes out of fear is unnecessary.

If you try to kill a snake, you could be in danger of being bitten. When snakes feel as though they are in danger, they will often attack. Snake bites are not only painful, but they can be extremely harmful and cost you a hospital visit. If you come across a snake, it is best to leave it alone.

Snakes were here first. If you see a snake, don't kill it or hurt it. Leave it alone. Killing it can cause environmental problems or an injury, and population decreases can minimize scientific developments.



810L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

Are School Uniforms Best?

School uniforms are best for students and parents. Implementing uniform policies will improve academics, save parents money, and prepare students for the future.

Students are faced with many distractions at school. School uniform policies cut down on clothing distractions. Uniforms help students focus on their academics. If everyone looks similar, students will not be distracted by inappropriate clothing. Wearing uniforms helps



- Learn in color! Visual cues reinforce text evidence
- Teachers can quickly check student work
- Variety of text structures to spark comprehension AND curiosity
- Dive into informational, scientific, and historical texts



QUESTIONS



Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?

- "When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy."
- "Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam-packed with chemicals."
- "Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment."
- "Conventional farming uses genetically modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that organic food is healthier than conventional food? (Choose all that apply.)

- "Cows are given growth hormones."
- "Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly."
- "Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically?"
- "Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals."

Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)

- "Animals are cage free."
- "Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives."
- "Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures."
- "They [conventional animals] are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer."

5. The author claims that organic food is better for our environment. Describe how the author supports this claim. Use at least two details in the answer.

790L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

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Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly. Animals are overcrowded. They live in unsanitary conditions. They are overfed and pumped with hormones to profit the farmer. Many standards for animals. Organic farmers cannot use antibiotics or growth hormones. Many of the animals must be organic. They are required to live in clean and safe conditions. Animals are cage free. Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures. Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives. Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy.

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Next time you go grocery shopping, look for the green USDA Organic symbol. Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment.



- Skill-focused, scaffolded questions
- Multiple choice and short answer
- Preps students for state testing
- Rigorous and research-based approach to questioning




ANCHOR CHART

- Use to introduce the skill
- Students reference throughout the unit



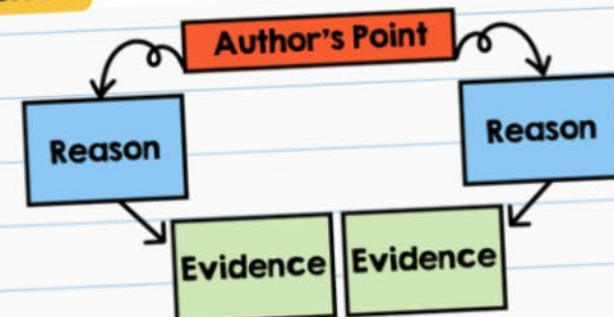
How
REASONS
support

 **POINTS**


When an author makes a point, or a claim, he or she should back it up with reasons and evidence.

A **Reason** is why the author believes his or her point.

Evidence is the facts that support his or her point.



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graph TD; AP[Author's Point] --> R1[Reason]; AP --> R2[Reason]; R1 --> E1[Evidence]; R2 --> E2[Evidence]
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 To determine how an author's reasons support his or her points:

1. Read the text.
2. Ask yourself, "What does the author think?" This is the author's point.
3. Skim the text and ask, "Why does the author think this?"
4. Ask yourself, "What evidence supports the author's thinking?"

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ASSESSMENTS

780L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: The Dark Side of Aquariums

Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing. Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures. However, what is the price that is being paid for people to be entertained by these majestic sea mammals?

Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums are forced into small habitats. This is unnatural. In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans. They swim long distances every day. In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely. This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset. They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks.



Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped. Many were taken from their natural habitats to be put into aquariums. These mammals were separated from their families. This is heartbreaking because dolphins and whales are known to form strong bonds with their families.

880L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____



TEST: Why College Is Important

High school students are all faced with an important life-changing decision. Should they go to college? College is important because it can shape a person's future.

College degree holders earn more money. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with a bachelor's degree earned an average of \$164 more per week than people who did not attend college. This higher salary adds up over a person's life. It can make a substantial difference in lifestyle. College-educated people will earn about \$1 million more in their lives! In addition, college-educated people are less likely to face unemployment.

College graduates are more satisfied with their jobs. This may be because people who attend college have time to explore their career interests. They take classes that help them decide the career paths they may take. College students also gain experience in their fields of interest. Seventy-seven percent of people with postgraduate degrees believed that their jobs gave them a sense of identity. Sixty percent of people with bachelor's degrees believed the same, while only thirty-eight percent of people who were not college educated were satisfied. People with bachelor's degrees are much more likely to view their jobs as careers.

College graduates tend to help their communities. College students gain a variety of experiences with people from different backgrounds. They learn to work with people who are different from them. This helps shape a person's identity. A study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 77% of non-college educated people do not plan to help their communities. In contrast, 83% of college graduates plan to help their communities. This is a compelling reason to plan to go to college.



Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?

- "Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures."
- "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
- "Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing."
- "We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that it is unnatural for dolphins and whales to live in aquariums? (Choose all that apply.)

- "In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans."
- "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
- "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
- "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"These mammals were separated from their families."

Which sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?

Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?

- "College degree holders earn more money."
- "College is important because it can shape a person's future."
- "College students also gain experience in their fields of interest."
- "High school students are all faced with an important life-changing decision."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that college graduates earn more money? (Choose all that apply.)

- "College-educated people will earn about \$1 million more in their lives."
- "In addition, college-educated people are less likely to face unemployment."
- "This may be because people who attend college have time to explore their career interests."
- "According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, people with bachelor's degrees earned an average of \$164 more per week than people who did not attend college."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"Seventy-seven percent of people with postgraduate degrees believed that their jobs gave them a sense of identity, while only thirty-eight percent of people who were not college educated were satisfied."

Which sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?

- Career choice after college is important.
- A college education is unrelated to job satisfaction.
- College graduates are more satisfied with their jobs.
- College graduates and non-college graduates are satisfied with their jobs.

4. Which sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?

"Another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?"

Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Dolphins and whales are very advanced."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)

- "Their brains are almost as large as human brains."
- "These animals have personalities and can feel emotions."
- "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."
- "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains."

5. The author claims that dolphins and whales do not belong in aquariums. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"College graduates tend to help their communities."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)

- "10% of college graduates volunteered in their communities."
- "College students also gain experience in their fields of interest."
- "They take classes that help them decide the career paths they may take."
- "College-educated citizens also were 15 times more likely to donate money to charities than people without college educations."

5. The author claims that college is important. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

- Same format as practice
- Two tests with different Lexile levels
- Color-coding
- Follows best practices for standardized assessments



WHY IT WORKS

- Certified Lexile measures
- High-interest texts to motivate readers
- Cross-curricular topics
- Scaffold approach will help your students meet grade level expectations.
- Classroom tested! Trusted by over 2,000 teachers... and counting!

The image displays several educational worksheets and materials on a wooden surface. At the top left, a teal banner contains the text 'WHY IT WORKS'. Below it, a green box lists five reasons why the program works. To the right, there are three worksheets. The top one is titled 'Reasons Support Points' and contains a reading passage about organic food with multiple-choice questions. The middle one is also titled 'Reasons Support Points' and features a 'Claim' box with the text 'Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy.' and an 'Evidence' box. Below the boxes are four multiple-choice options and a writing prompt: 'The author claims that organic food is better for our environment. Describe how the author supports this claim. Use at least two details in the answer.' The bottom worksheet is titled '790L Eat Organic' and contains a reading passage about organic food with a small image of a basket of vegetables. A purple arrow points from the green box towards the worksheets. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'Magi CORE'.

ALIGNS TO SCIENCE OF READING

Research shows that wide reading has the biggest impact on student reading progress.

Our passages provide that essential variety of nonfiction structures and topics.

Students need scaffolded instruction to access grade level texts. Without it, students are not exposed to linguistic and textural features, putting them further behind.

Our texts help students grow full-steam ahead. With certified Lexile levels in the Common Core text complexity band, students will 100% engage with appropriate text and sentence structures, vocabulary, and more. Plus, every passage provides teachers with opportunities to scaffold instruction.

Fun fact! From 2nd grade on, students make greater reading gains when taught from texts that are as much as two grade levels above their "instructional" reading level.

Lead the way! Our texts are leveled to master grade-level expectations and set students up for success.

ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS



MagiCore is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	190L-530L
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."



TAKE A PEEK



REASONS & EVIDENCE SUPPORT POINTS 4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740L-1010L)

1. Anchor Chart/Journal Page
2. Eat Organic- 790L
3. The Great Milk Debate- 790L
4. Are School Uniforms Best?- 810L
5. Say No to Plastic Bags- 860L
6. Space Exploration: We Need Funding!- 870L
7. Lather Up- 880L
8. Rock the Vote- 880L
9. Save the Snakes- 900L
10. Why Do We Need Sleep?- 910L
11. Do You Really Need to Wear a Bicycle Helmet?- 910L
12. Test
 - The Dark Side of Aquariums- 780L
 - Why College Is Important- 880L



The Google Slides version of this resource requires that you make a copy of the resource to your own Google Drive.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS RESOURCE TO YOUR GOOGLE DRIVE.

You MUST have a Google account in order to access this resource. [Click HERE](#) if you need help setting up a Google account.



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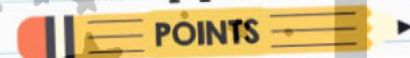
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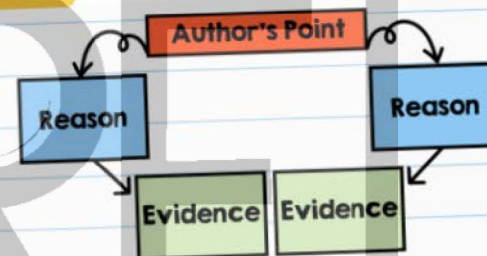
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4. Ask yourself, "What evidence supports the author's point?"



CHECK THIS OUT TOO!



870L Reasons Support Points

Name: _____ Date: _____

Space Exploration: We Need Funding!

When you look up at the sky at night, do you ever think about what exists between all the stars? There's a whole universe that twinkles above us. Because that universe is so big, it's important to study it. We need to understand what is around us. There are many reasons to give money to space exploration. People like to discover new things, and we need to learn about all of the natural resources available in the world. We also need to know how to protect ourselves from dangerous objects in space.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin on the Moon During Apollo 11

Exploring space means that scientists keep finding new things. Since 1957, astronauts have traveled to space to learn more about it. These astronauts live in space for several months and study the things around them. To live there, they need special equipment. This leads to discoveries and inventions in science, such as the silver space blanket that we use in emergencies to keep people warm in cold weather. Vacuum cleaners that are small and easy to move were also invented for space exploration. Another example is freeze-dried food. This has become common nowadays, but it was first created for astronauts since fresh food doesn't stay fresh in space. Memory foam mattresses were also invented for space shuttles so that astronauts could sleep better. We now find these mattresses in shops all around us. Do you often use a laptop or a computer mouse? These were also created for space missions. Even the small camera in your phone is the result of space exploration! If money hadn't been given for exploring new things in space, think about all of these inventions that we wouldn't have today! Plus, think about what we might discover on other planets.



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The second reason to fund space exploration is that there are too many people in the world. There are nearly 76 billion people living on Earth. Nearly 1.77 (1.5 billion) of the people live in China alone. That's how many people live in the whole world 100 years ago. Nearly 1.5 billion people live in India. This means that nearly 1.5 billion people live in just China and India. There are 1.5 billion people living in a very small space. The world has the third biggest population of people. The world isn't big enough for all the people. There also aren't enough natural resources in space; we just need to explore. Like Elon Musk, we are exploring life on other planets. Many people want to move to another planet. We will have to leave Earth and find a new place to live. To find the right place, they need to explore space. However, these explorations cost a lot of money, so we need to find a way to fund space exploration.



Elon Musk owner of Space X

One reason to spend money on exploring space is so that we can keep the Earth safe. A big asteroid crashing into Earth. Scientists say that this happens every 100 years. Asteroids, which are huge waves that flood cities and towns next to the sea and kill people, are sometimes so big that they cause tidal waves in the ocean. Some scientists say that dinosaurs would still exist if the asteroid that wiped them out had fallen just 30 seconds later. Unless we want to become extinct like dinosaurs, it's important to have the money they need to monitor these things. Without money for space exploration, we won't be able to keep our planet safe from these things.

Without money for space exploration, we won't be able to keep our planet safe from these things. Without some of these inventions. Without them, we wouldn't be able to find new things. Without them, we would never know about the giant asteroid that could destroy us, too. Without giving money to the scientists, researchers, and astronauts who explore space. This is why it's so important to fund space exploration. The world as we know it depends on it.

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Which sentence(s) expresses the main point of the article?

- "There's a whole universe that twinkles above us."
- "We also need to know how to protect ourselves from dangerous objects in space."
- "We owe our thanks to the scientists, researchers, and astronauts who explore space."
- "This is why it's so important to fund space exploration. The world as we know it depends on it."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that space exploration leads to discoveries and inventions in science? (Choose all that apply.)

- "There are too many people in the world."
- "Even the small camera in your phone is the result of space exploration!"
- "Vacuum cleaners that are small and easy to move were also invented for space exploration."
- "Memory foam mattresses were also invented for space shuttles so that astronauts could sleep better."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"There are nearly 76 billion people living on Earth."

The author uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?

- We need to keep the Earth safe.
- One third of the world's population lives in China and India.
- Exploring space means that scientists keep finding new things.
- Space exploration needs to be funded so that scientists can study alternate places for humans to live in the future.

What is another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

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Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
Space exploration keeps Earth safe.	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box?

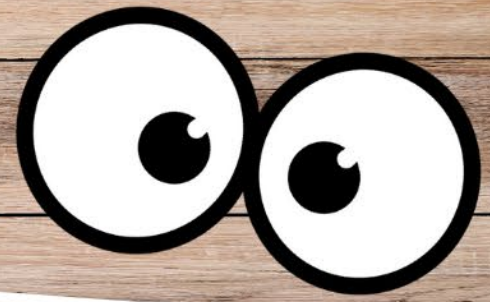
- "Exploring space lets scientists look out for large asteroids that could destroy Earth."
- "The second reason to fund space exploration is that there are too many people in the world."
- "People like Elon Musk are exploring life on other planets to see if we can move to another planet."
- "Some scientists say that dinosaurs would still exist if the asteroid that wiped them out had fallen just 30 seconds later."

5. The author claims that space exploration is important. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

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UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS!



780L Reasons Support Points Name: _____ Date: _____


TEST: The Dark Side of Aquariums

Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing. Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures. However, what is the price that is being paid for people to be entertained by these majestic sea mammals?


Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums are forced into small habitats. This is unnatural. In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans. They swim long distances every day. In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely. This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset. They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks.

Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped. Many were taken from their natural habitats to be put into aquariums. These mammals were separated from their families. This is heartbreaking because dolphins and whales are known to form strong bonds with their families.

Dolphins and whales are very advanced. Their brains are almost as large as human brains. Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains. These animals have personalities and can feel emotions. We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment.



Orca in the Wild



Orca in Captivity

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Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

Which sentence expresses the main point of the article?

- "Most people are fascinated by these amazing creatures."
- "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
- "Seeing graceful dolphins and enormous whales up close in an aquarium is amazing."
- "We should respect these marine mammals and keep them in their natural environment."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that it is unnatural for dolphins and whales to live in aquariums? (Choose all that apply.)

- "In nature, dolphins and whales live in wide open oceans."
- "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
- "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
- "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"These mammals were separated from their families."

The author uses this sentence as evidence to support which of the following points?

- "In aquariums, they do not have the space to move freely."
- "Dolphins and whales that live in aquariums have been kidnapped."
- "This can cause whales and dolphins to become frustrated and upset."
- "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains."

What is another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim above?

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Reasons Support Points

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Dolphins and whales are very advanced."	

Which of the following sentences should go in the blank box? (Choose all that apply.)

- "Their brains are almost as large as human brains."
- "These animals have personalities and can feel emotions."
- "They spend their days in small tanks and are forced to perform tricks."
- "Some people believe that their brains are even more complex than human brains"

5. The author claims that dolphins and whales do not belong in aquariums. Write a paragraph explaining the reasons and evidence the author uses to support his or her claim.

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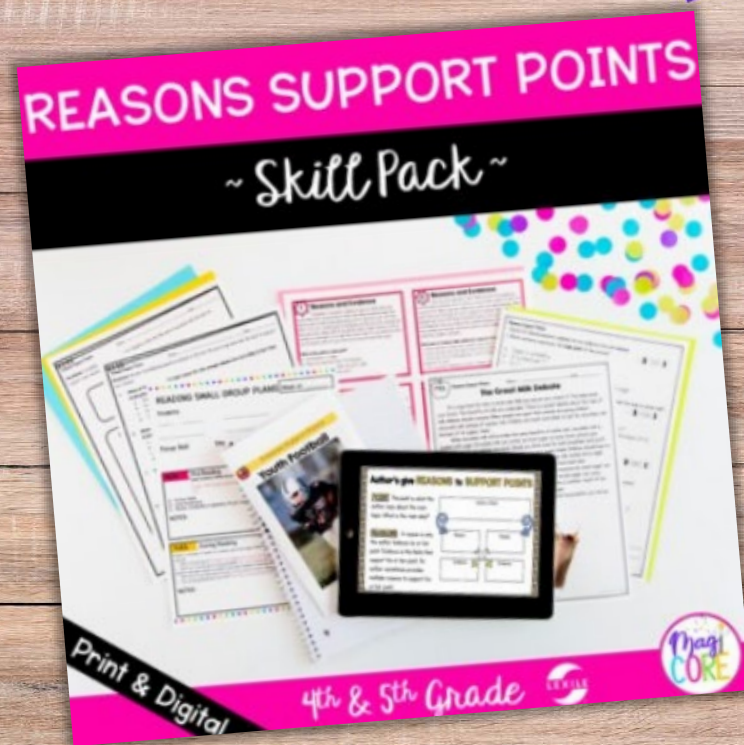


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