



Florida B.E.S.T. AUTHOR'S CLAIMS

Visual Text Features
4. Look at the table below.

Claim	Evidence
"Animal..."	...

Name: Julie Bachese Date: 4/28

Eat Organic

Reasons Support Points

When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy. Think again. What is in 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 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 sometimes never see the light of day. Organic farms have higher standards for animals. Organically raised 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 in the water quality of rivers and lakes. Also, a food is distributed locally. Less energy is needed to transport the food. This is better for the environment.

When shopping, look for the green USDA Organic symbol. Choosing organic food means choosing healthier animals, and a healthier environment.

Mag CORE

Many unsanitary conditions
Animals raised at a
higher standards for
feed for the animal
Animals are caged
Cows are required
organically are healthy
Organic farming
Organic farmers
killers, or pesticides
cause pollution
conducted a study
agriculture in
affecting the
lot of organic
helps reduce
Next to
organic food

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence.

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.

...even more ...
 ...cause cows to ...
 ...have higher standards for ...
 ...conventional ...
 ...that the author ...

Visual Text Features

4. Look at the table below.

Reasons Support Points

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

1. Which sentence expresses the main point?

Date: _____

Name: _____

Save the Snakes



Many people are fearful of snakes. They are sneaky and slithery, and they look malicious. 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 slithery 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 tirofiban, 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 medicine. Snake venom is unnecessary.

Snakes are in danger of being bitten. When snakes are attacked, you could be in danger of being bitten. Snake bites are not only painful, but they can also cost you a hospital visit. If you are bitten, leave the snake alone.

Visual Text Features
4. Look at the table below.

Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence.

1. Which sentence

Date: _____

Reasons Support Points

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. Animals have personalities and can feel emotions. We should respect these marine animals and keep them in their natural environment.



Orca in the Wild



Visual Text Features
4. Look at the table below.

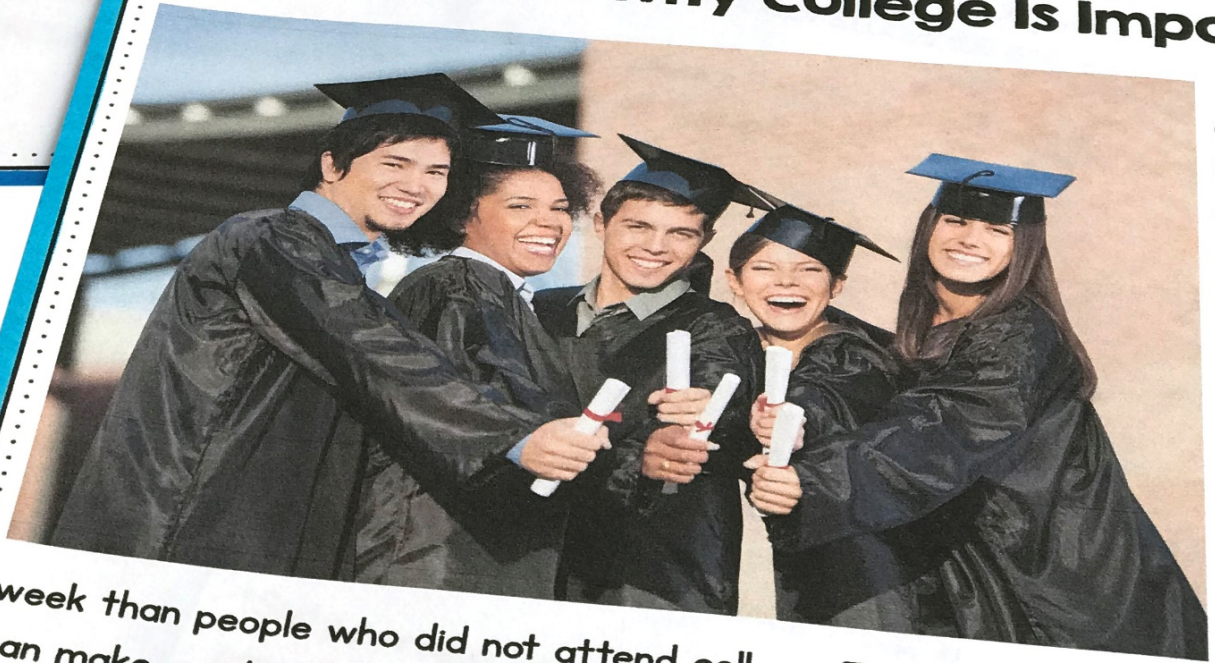
Reasons Support Points

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence.

1. Which sentence expresses the main point?

Name: _____

TEST: Why College Is Important



are all important decisions because people earn money to the State back over a week than people who did not attend college. This higher salary adds up and can make a substantial difference in lifestyle. College-educated people make more in their lives! In addition, college-educated people are less likely to attend college have time to explore their career interests. They take interest. Seventy-seven percent of college graduates decide the career paths they may take. College students also

REASONS & EVIDENCE SUPPORT POINTS

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled passages in the 4th-5th Grade Florida B.E.S.T. 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



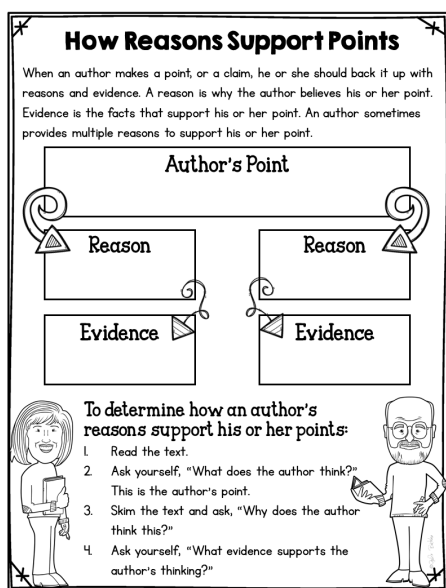
Anchor chart to help you teach and for students to reference

Multiple choice and short response questions

- Requires students to find text evidence

Assessment

- Same format as practice worksheets



Level
M

Reasoning Support Points

Name _____

Date _____

Rock the Vote

Everyone over the age of 18 should vote. Voting means participating in our country's democracy. If you do not vote, then you have no voice to make change.

Democracy works if people vote for people to represent them who have similar values and beliefs. The elected officials then listen to the voters to make decisions for their towns, states, or the country. It is important to be informed about the candidates in the election. Knowing the candidates will help you choose a representative who supports issues and topics you care about. Voting means that you have an influence on important issues that can affect you. Your vote could help decide how much taxes you or your parents pay. Your vote could also decide if a new school is built. Your vote also decides larger issues, such as if men and women should have equal pay.

Many people choose not to vote because they believe their votes will not make a difference. In the 2016 presidential election, only 58% of eligible voters turned out for the election. That is 1/2 that did not vote! If these people did vote, they could have undoubtedly changed the outcome of the election. Throughout history, there have been many close elections that have proved that every vote counts. In 2000, Al Gore won the popular vote in the election. He had 50,992,335 votes, while George W. Bush had 50,455,656 votes. Bush barely won the electoral college at 271 to 266. Elections like this show how everyone's votes can make a difference.

If you do not vote, you are discrediting the struggles people throughout history have overcome to give everyone the right to vote. In the United States, women didn't have the right to vote until 1920. African Americans were deferred from voting due to poll taxes, literacy tests, and more until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed. Today, many countries do not have democracies. People in these countries do not have a say in their governments. Some people in countries that do not have a democracy have lost their lives fighting for the opportunity to vote.

Exercising your right to vote is important to help your country. Every person over the age of 18 should make it a priority to vote.



Reasoning Support Points

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

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

a "Everyone over the age of 18 should vote."
b "It is important to be informed about the card."
c "Voting means that you have an influence on it affect you."
d "Democracy works if people vote for people similar values and beliefs."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that voting means you have an influence on issues that are important? (Choose all that apply)

a "Voting means participating in our country's democracy."
b "Your vote could also decide if a new school is built."
c "Your vote also decides larger issues, such as if men and women have equal pay."
d "The elected officials then listen to the voters to make decisions, towns, states, or the country"

3. Read the following sentences from the passage.

"In the 2016 presidential election, only 58% of eligible voters turned out is 42% that did not vote!"

The author uses these sentences as evidence to support which of the following?

a Every vote counts.
b It is only important to vote in close elections.
c Voting is most important in presidential elections.
d Candidates who win the popular vote don't always win the election.

What is another piece of evidence that the author uses to support the claim that every vote counts?

deterrred from voting more until the Voting I
many countries do not
people in countries the
their lives fighting for
Exercising your
country. Every person
priority to vote.

... that have proved
that every vote counts."

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

- a. "Bush barely won the electoral college at 271 to 266."
- b. "If you do not vote, then you have no voice to make change."
- c. "Many people choose not to vote because they believe their votes will not make a difference."
- d. "Knowing the candidates will help you choose a representative who supports issues and topics you care about."

5. The author claims that not voting discredits all of the struggles people throughout history have made to give people in America equal voting rights. Describe how the author supports this claim. Use at least two details in the answer.

[illegible]

Level:

M

Reasons Support Points

Name _____

TEST: Why College?



Week after week, more than people who did not attend college. This higher salary can make a substantial difference in lifestyle. College-educated people are more in their lives.

In addition, college-educated people are less likely to attend college have time to explore their career interests. They take interest. Seventy-seven percent of people with postgraduate degrees gave them a sense of identity. Sixty percent of people with bachelor's degree, while only thirty-eight percent of people with bachelor's degree. People with bachelor's degrees are much more likely to view their jobs as experiences with people from different backgrounds. They learn to work with the Lumina Foundation, 40% of college graduates volunteered in their community. College graduates volunteered in their communities. According to non-college graduates volunteered. College-educated citizens also were 15 times more money to charities than people without college education.

As you continue your education, keep your future goals in mind. The statistic college-educated citizens are a compelling reason to plan for college.

Reasons Support Points

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

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

- a "College degree holders earn more money."
- b "College is important because it can shape a person."
- c "College students also gain experience in their field."
- d "High school students are all faced with an import..."

2. What piece of evidence best supports the claim that college (Choose all that apply).

- a "College-educated people will earn about \$1..."
- b "In addition, college-educated people are le..."
- c "They may be because people who attend career interests."
- d "According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor & ...degrees earned an average of \$464 & r...not attend college?"

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"Sixty percent of people with bachelor's d...percent of people who were not college s..."

The author uses this sentence as evide...

- a Career choice after college
- b A college education is unri...
- c College graduates are m...
- d College graduates and r...

*What is another piece of evid...

Visual Test Features

4. Look at the table below.

Claim	
"College graduates tend to help their communities."	

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

- a "...40% of college graduates volunteered in their..."
- b "College students also gain experience in their field..."
- c "They take classes that help them decide the caree..."
- d "College-educated citizens also were 15 times more money to charities than people without college educ...

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

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.

Florida B.E.S.T. uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure 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 Florida B.E.S.T. Expectations
K-1	N/A
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	1185L-1385L

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 Florida B.E.S.T. 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."





Author's Claim

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eat Organic

When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy. Think again. What is in 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 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.

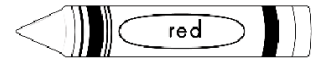
Next time you go grocery shopping, look for the green USDA Organic symbol. Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment.



Author's Claim

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

1. Which sentence expresses the author's claim in the article?



- a. "When you devour a crisp apple, you probably think that you are eating healthy."
- b. "Unless you're eating organic food, chances are that your food is jam-packed with chemicals."
- c. "Choosing organic food supports a healthier you, healthier animals, and a healthier environment."
- d. "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.)



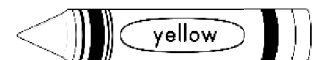
- a. "Cows are given growth hormones."
- b. "Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly."
- c. "Did you know that your great-great-grandparents ate organically?"
- d. "Organic food cannot be treated with pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics, growth hormones, or other chemicals."

3. Read the following sentence from the passage.

"Many animals raised at conventional farms never see the light of day."

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

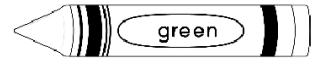
- a. "In modern times, farming has changed."
- b. "Hormones cause cows to get infections."
- c. "Organic farms have higher standards for animals."
- d. "Many conventional farms treat their animals appallingly."



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

Author's Claim

4. Look at the table below.



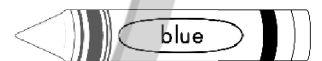
Claim	Evidence
"Animals that are raised organically are healthy and happy."	



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

- a. "Animals are cage free."
- b. "Cows are required to graze on grass for at least one third of their lives."
- c. "Organically raised animals must have access to the outdoors and pastures."
- d. "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.



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Good to Go



Not O.K.

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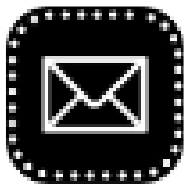
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