Evaluate Reasons and Evidence

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Our School Should Host a Repair Café

Down the hall from our art room, a closet holds a sad collection: a radio with a loose wire, a lamp that will not turn on and three jackets with broken zippers. Most of these things are not really trash. They just need a small repair. I believe our school should host a monthly repair café, where volunteers help families fix broken things for free.

The first reason is that a repair café keeps useful objects out of the landfill. Repair cafés began in the Netherlands in 2009. Today there are thousands of them around the world. One large group of cafés keeps records of every repair. Its volunteers report that about six out of ten broken items leave working again. Each fixed toaster or bike light is one less thing thrown away. Broken electronics are a growing part of what goes into landfills.

The second reason is that repairing saves families money. A new vacuum cleaner can cost $150. At a repair café, a volunteer might fix the old one by replacing a $10 belt. The Maplewood community center, two towns away, held its first repair café last year. Families there brought in 140 items over six months. The organizers estimated that the repairs saved those families about $7,000 in all. Some families also kept things they loved, such as a grandmother's sewing machine.

The third reason is that students would learn practical skills. At a repair café, the volunteer does not simply fix the item while the owner waits. The two work on it together. A student might learn how to sew on a button, change a fuse or oil a squeaky hinge. Fixing something step by step also teaches patience and problem solving. These skills last a lifetime.

The fourth reason is that repair cafés are fun. Everyone I have talked to thinks fixing things together would be a great time. People could share snacks and stories while they work.

Some people may worry that someone could get hurt using tools. That is an important point. At Maplewood, adults handle all electrical repairs, and children use only simple hand tools while an adult watches. The center has had no injuries so far.

Others may ask who would volunteer. Our town already has many retired carpenters, tailors and electricians. The Maplewood organizers said their biggest surprise was how many people offered to help. They began with eight volunteers and now have thirty. Several high school students also help as a way to earn service hours.

The closet down the hall is a reminder that we throw away too much. A monthly repair café would save money, cut waste and teach skills. I ask our principal to let us hold the first one in the school gym this winter.

1. Which reason does the author support with the weakest evidence?
   - Students would learn practical skills.
   - Repairing saves families money.
   - Repair cafés keep objects out of the landfill.
   - Repair cafés are fun.

2. Why is "Everyone I have talked to" weak support?
   - It comes from a study in the Netherlands.
   - It gives too many exact numbers.
   - It is about money instead of fun.
   - It does not say who or how many people.

3. Which evidence supports the first reason?
   A new vacuum cleaner can cost $150.
   Maplewood began with eight volunteers.
   Repairs saved Maplewood families about $7,000.
   About six out of ten items leave working again.

4. The $7,000 estimate supports which reason?
   Repairing saves families money.
   Repair cafés keep objects out of the landfill.
   Students would learn practical skills.
   Many people are willing to volunteer.

5. Why does the author explain that the volunteer and the owner work on the item together?
   to explain why cafés began in the Netherlands
   to show how much money a repair saves
   to show how a repair café teaches skills
   to prove that no one ever gets hurt

6. Why might a careful reader want more information about the $7,000 figure?
   It does not include any number.
   It is about safety, not money.
   It describes repairs made in the Netherlands.
   It is an estimate made by the organizers themselves.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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