Evaluate Reasons and Evidence

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Every Student Should Learn Some Sign Language

In many schools, students can study Spanish or French. Very few elementary schools teach American Sign Language, or ASL. I believe every elementary school should offer basic ASL lessons.

My first point is that ASL helps students communicate with more people. ASL is a full language with its own grammar. It is not English spoken with the hands. It has its own word order, and facial expressions are part of its grammar. Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States use it every day. Many of them are deaf or hard of hearing. When hearing students know some signs, they can talk with deaf classmates, neighbors and shopkeepers. At Bayview Elementary, every student learns twenty signs in first grade. A deaf student there said that recess changed for her. Classmates who once walked past her now ask her to play.

My second point is that learning to sign can help young children learn. Signing uses the hands, eyes and memory together. Linking a word to a movement may give the brain two ways to remember it. In one small study, a group of kindergartners learned signs for their new vocabulary words. At the end of the year, they knew more of the words than a group that only said them aloud.

My third point is that signs are useful even for people who hear well. Signs work in places where speaking is hard. A lifeguard can sign across a noisy pool. A student can sign "bathroom" to a teacher without interrupting the class. Families can sign through a car window or across a crowded gym. Divers use signs underwater, and referees use them on loud fields.

Some people argue that schools have no time for another subject. That concern makes sense, since the school day is already full. However, ASL does not need its own class period. At Bayview, teachers spend ten minutes during morning meeting on a few new signs. Students then practice them during the day. Free videos made by deaf teachers can help classroom teachers who are still learning.

Sign language opens doors to friendship, learning and clear communication. A few minutes a day is a small price. Every elementary school should teach it.

1. What is the author's claim?

   Every elementary school should offer basic ASL lessons.

   Schools should stop teaching Spanish and French.

   ASL should replace morning meeting.

   Only deaf students should learn ASL.

2. Which evidence supports the first point, that ASL helps students communicate with more people?

A deaf student said classmates now ask her to play.

A lifeguard can sign across a noisy pool.

Kindergartners learned more words with signs.

Teachers spend ten minutes at morning meeting.

3. The small study about kindergartners supports which point?

Learning to sign can help young children learn.

ASL does not need its own class period.

ASL helps students talk with more people.

Signs work where speaking is hard.

4. How does the author support the third point?

by telling how many people use ASL

by quoting a deaf student

by giving examples of places where speaking is hard

by sharing the results of a study

5. What is the purpose of the fifth paragraph?

to give a new reason for the claim

to explain how ASL grammar works

to describe signing at a pool

to answer the worry that there is no time for ASL

6. Which evidence answers that worry?

Families can sign through a car window.

Bayview teachers spend ten minutes on signs at morning meeting.

Signing uses the hands, eyes and memory.

Hundreds of thousands of people use ASL.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Circle the answer.

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