

Name _____

Code The Claim Answer Key

Cities filled with traffic, buildings, and noise can leave people feeling overwhelmed. Green spaces, such as parks, offer a much-needed escape and help improve both mental and physical health. **(C)** Studies show that people who visit parks regularly have lower stress levels and better focus at work. **(E)**

In addition to emotional benefits, parks play a major environmental role. Trees in city parks absorb carbon dioxide and release clean oxygen, making urban air safer to breathe. **(E)** This natural process supports the author's claim because it shows how green spaces improve life for everyone, not just individuals. **(R)**

Furthermore, parks create opportunities for community connection. Whether families picnic, kids play soccer, or neighbors join in weekend clean-up drives, these shared spaces bring people together. **(E)** When people connect outdoors, it strengthens social bonds and builds pride in their neighborhoods. **(R)** In short, parks are essential for both people and the planet. **(C)**

Teacher Notes / Teacher's Guide

Objective: Students will learn to identify and label **claims, evidence, and reasoning** in a nonfiction passage using annotation symbols. This develops close reading and argument comprehension skills.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin by modeling one paragraph with the class. Read aloud and annotate on the board while thinking aloud ("This sentence is what the author believes, so I'll mark it with a C...").
- Reinforce that strong reading requires active engagement; annotation helps track the structure of arguments, not just facts.

Assessment Tip: Check that students' **E** selections are factual and directly support the **C**, and that their **R** explains *how* the evidence proves the claim. Mastery is shown when students can justify why they labeled each part correctly.