

GRADE 3 LEARNING PACK

The Bench Debate

Distinguish preference from evidence in a civic decision story.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Distinguish preference from evidence in a civic decision story.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Read the story

PART 1

A fictional neighbourhood had money for one new bench. One group wanted it beside the playground, another wanted it near the bus stop.

PART 2

At the meeting, people began by saying which location they preferred. Then a facilitator asked what evidence could help.

PART 3

They counted how many people used each area at different times and asked older residents and parents about accessibility needs.

PART 4

The evidence showed the bus stop had fewer seats nearby and was used by people waiting for longer periods. The playground already had two benches.

PART 5

The group chose the bus stop location but kept the playground idea on a future list. People still had different preferences, yet the decision had a clear reason.

Read story section 1: A fictional neighbourhood had money for one new bench. One group wanted it beside the playground, another wanted it near the bus stop.

Read story section 2: At the meeting, people began by saying which location they preferred. Then a facilitator asked what evidence could help.

Read story section 3: They counted how many people used each area at different times and asked older residents and parents about accessibility needs.

Read story section 4: The evidence showed the bus stop had fewer seats nearby and was used by people waiting for longer periods. The playground already had two benches.

Read story section 5: The group chose the bus stop location but kept the playground idea on a future list. People still had different preferences, yet the decision had a clear reason.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Retell the text in five key events, then identify one sentence that carries the central idea.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a six-frame storyboard or evidence map that shows the turning point and the final learning idea.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What changed the discussion from preference to evidence?

2. Why did the bus stop become the stronger choice?

3. Did everyone need to have the same preference?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “The Bench Debate”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

Use details directly stated or strongly supported by the story.

2. Suggested response

Equivalent evidence-based wording is acceptable.

3. Suggested response

Open responses should distinguish evidence from unsupported guess.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

Print. Learn. Grow.