

Name _____

Evaluate Argument and Claims

Practice

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

In Need of a Dog Park

One of our city laws states that a dog must be on a leash all the time when outside. This law ensures safety, and it eases the fears of people who are uncomfortable with dogs. However, dogs are meant to run free to meet, greet, play, and explore. Our neighborhood needs a place where dogs can safely romp around away from their leashes. This perfect place is a dog park.

The facts are that dogs will chase squirrels and scooter-riding kids. They'll dig holes. They'll bump into people and maybe even knock them over. In the opinion of many people, dogs certainly can be an irritation. In a fenced-in area, though, they can be themselves without bothering anyone. A dog park is a wonderful place for dogs and their owners. A journalist who visited a local "bark park" for a week noticed that. She went to the park to gather facts about how dogs learn to get along with one another. She also saw that owners shared tips about training, veterinarians, and dog sitters with others while watching their pets at play. She noticed that owners got to know one another better too. Because of what she observed, that journalist's opinion is that having a dog park is great for the whole neighborhood.

Most people in the community would say "yes" to having a dog park. In a recent online poll of our community newspaper, nearly 90% of dog owners eagerly supported the idea of having a dog park, and most people who don't own dogs said they hadn't thought much about the issue. However, a dog park has many advantages for people who don't own dogs. For one thing, there would be fewer dogs on the sidewalks. For another, leashed dogs would likely be calmer and better behaved after exercise at the park.

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Although people might wonder where a dog park would be located and who would pay for it and maintain it, these issues are easily resolved. Many urban neighborhoods already have dog parks. They are located mostly within city parks or in formerly vacant lots. Dog owners form cooperatives to pay for and maintain these parks. Some members pick up litter and empty trash cans. Others maintain the gates and fences and refill the bag dispensers. Still others create Web sites and post helpful notices for dog owners. Therefore, the people who use a dog park take on most or all of its responsibilities and costs.

Dog parks have the support of many communities. And neighborhood dogs certainly would support dog parks. If my dog Gracie could talk, she would likely say, “What are you humans waiting for? We need a park now! Hurry! Hurry!”

Write your answers on the lines and then print this page.

1. What is the speaker’s position?

2. In the second paragraph, the speaker claims, “a dog park is a wonderful place for dogs and their owners.” Does the speaker provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

3. In the first sentence of the third paragraph, the speaker claims, “most people in the community would say ‘yes’ to having a dog park.” Does the speaker provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

Part 7
SPEAKING AND LISTENING
7.1 Comprehension and Collaboration

Name _____

4. In the last sentence of the fourth paragraph, the speaker claims, “although people might wonder where a dog park would be located and who would pay for it and maintain it, these issues are easily resolved.” Does the speaker provide reasons and evidence to support this claim? If so, list the reasons and evidence.

5. Do you think that the speaker’s claims make this argument effective? Why or why not?
