

# Leo and the Eco-Warriors: Arguing to Win

Grade 6

English

Nonfiction

Eco warriors Theme

~161 words

CCSS.ELA.RI.6.8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

 **READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Leo joined the Eco-Warriors club to save a local forest from being destroyed. The group discovered that a company wanted to build a parking lot there. Leo learned that winning this fight required more than passion. It required strong, well-built arguments. First, Leo studied how arguments are structured. Every strong argument starts with a **claim** — a statement of what the writer believes. The Eco-Warriors claimed that the forest must stay protected forever. Without a clear claim, their message would only confuse readers. Next, Leo searched for evidence to support the claim. He found scientific reports showing that the forest housed twelve rare bird species. Strong evidence makes a claim believable and very hard to ignore. Then Leo discovered that the company also had its own arguments. He carefully learned to spot weak reasoning and missing facts in their letters. Finding flaws in an opponent's argument makes your own position much stronger. Leo realized that eco-warriors fight best with facts and logic, not just passion.

 *Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

 **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

## MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

2. According to the passage, what did Leo find that supported the Eco-Warriors' claim? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

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## VOCABULARY

3. What does the word **\*\*claim\*\*** mean as it is used in this passage?

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## INFERENCE

4. Why might the Eco-Warriors have struggled to protect the forest if they had only used passion and emotion in their argument?

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## CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. According to the passage, what happens when an argument is missing a clear claim?

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## TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What did Leo learn about the company's arguments? Use a quote from that paragraph in your answer.

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# ✓ ANSWER KEY — Leo and the Eco-Warriors: Arguing to Win

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Leo joined the Eco-Warriors club to save a local forest from being destroyed. The group discovered that a company wanted to build a parking lot there. Leo learned that winning this fight required more than passion. It required strong, well-built arguments. First, Leo studied how arguments are structured. Every strong argument starts with a **claim** — a statement of what the writer believes. The Eco-Warriors claimed that the forest must stay protected forever. Without a clear claim, their message would only confuse readers. Next, Leo searched for evidence to support the claim. He found scientific reports showing that the forest housed twelve rare bird species. Strong evidence makes a claim believable and very hard to ignore. Then Leo discovered that the company also had its own arguments. He carefully learned to spot weak reasoning and missing facts in their letters. Finding flaws in an opponent's argument makes your own position much stronger. Leo realized that eco-warriors fight best with facts and logic, not just passion.

## MAIN IDEA

### 1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about how Leo learned to analyze arguments as part of the Eco-Warriors' effort to protect a local forest.

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 2. According to the passage, what did Leo find that supported the Eco-Warriors' claim? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

Leo found proof that the forest was home to wildlife, as shown by the detail: "He found scientific reports showing that the forest housed twelve rare bird species."

## VOCABULARY

### 3. What does the word **claim** mean as it is used in this passage?

In this passage, a claim means a clear statement of what a writer believes, which is the starting point of any strong argument.

## INFERENCE

### 4. Why might the Eco-Warriors have struggled to protect the forest if they had only used passion and emotion in their argument?

Without facts and evidence, their argument would be easy to dismiss; the passage explains that a claim needs evidence to be "believable and very hard to ignore," which means emotion alone would not be convincing enough.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

### 5. According to the passage, what happens when an argument is missing a clear claim?

When an argument is missing a clear claim, the message becomes confusing, because the passage states, "Without a clear claim, their message would only confuse readers."

## TEXT EVIDENCE

### 6. What did Leo learn about the company's arguments? Use a quote from that paragraph in your answer.

Leo learned that the company's arguments had weaknesses, as the passage says: "He carefully learned to spot weak reasoning and missing facts in their letters."