The Missing Timetable

Trace how a writer builds a practical argument.

11.CL.11 "Compose and edit both short and extended products in which the development and organization are relevant and suitable to task, purpose, and audience, using an appropriate command of language. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main claim and final implication, circle the brief scene, and number the transitions that connect the writer's ideas.

Keep the Schedule in Sight

1 At 7:12 on a rainy morning, a student reached the bus stop with a dead phone and a debate tournament across town. The shelter displayed only a code to scan for the route schedule. She waited, unsure whether the bus had already passed. One missed connection would not prove that every rider needs a paper schedule, but it exposes a flaw in the city's plan to replace printed timetables with codes at all stops. The transit agency should keep dated printed schedules at major stops and use codes for live updates.

2 Printed schedules let riders check ordinary departure times without a device, a data connection, or battery power. A posted timetable also lets two people compare options together while they wait. A code, however, can show a delayed bus or a temporary detour more quickly than a static sheet can. For that reason, the strongest policy uses both tools rather than treating them as rivals: print the regular times and place a code beside them for current changes. The agency could label each sheet with a revision date so riders know when its regular schedule was last updated.

3 Critics may object that replacing paper whenever routes change takes staff time and money. That concern matters, especially if schedules are revised often. Still, limiting printed sheets to major stops, where more riders can use each copy, contains the work without removing an essential option. Staff could date each new sheet and post a correction beside it while a replacement is prepared. A transit system should not make a charged phone the price of basic information; keeping a visible, updated timetable helps make public service usable by the public.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening scene support the claim without serving as proof by itself?

2. Why does the writer compare printed schedules and codes before proposing a policy that uses both?

3. What objection does the writer acknowledge, and how does the reply address it?

4. How does the final sentence broaden the argument, and what tone does it create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 80 to 110 words arguing whether club sign-ups should be online only or also available on paper. Include a brief imagined scene, a concrete reason, a fair counterargument and reply, two intentional transitions, and a concluding sentence about the policy's wider effect.

ANSWER KEY

The Missing Timetable

GRADE 11 · 11.CL.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main claim and final implication, circle the brief scene, and number the transitions that connect the writer's ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening scene support the claim without serving as proof by itself?	**The dead phone makes the access problem concrete. The writer admits that one missed connection cannot prove every rider needs a printed schedule.**
2	Why does the writer compare printed schedules and codes before proposing a policy that uses both?	**The comparison establishes a distinct benefit of each tool, making the combined policy a reasoned response rather than a compromise without support.**
3	What objection does the writer acknowledge, and how does the reply address it?	**Replacing sheets takes staff time and money. The writer proposes printing them at major stops and posting corrections while replacements are prepared.**
4	How does the final sentence broaden the argument, and what tone does it create?	**It connects access to bus information with the broader purpose of public service. Its wording creates a firm, inclusive tone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At lunch, a new student spots a robotics club poster but cannot open its sign-up link on a phone with no service. Our council should offer paper forms alongside online sign-ups so interested students can register immediately, regardless of device access. Online forms do save club leaders time by collecting names in one place. However, a paper form can be entered into that same list later, and a club officer can collect forms after lunch. This small extra step keeps convenience from becoming a barrier. When joining a club does not depend on a working phone, more students can take part in school life.

Accept other well-supported explanations of how the scene, comparison, concession, and conclusion develop the argument. For the writing task, accept either position if the paragraph meets the stated requirements.