A Case for Access

Analyze a speech written for a school board.

11.LL.23 "Deliver a speech suitable for an authentic audience for a specific purpose, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the specific action the speaker requests, circle two expressions suited to a school board audience, and number two reasons the speaker gives for the request.

A Library Hours Trial

1 Members of the school board, thank you for hearing a student perspective on access to our library. At 3:10, the final bell rings, but research does not end with it. Students who share devices at home or wait for a ride sometimes need a quiet place to read and work before leaving campus. I ask you to authorize an eight-week trial that keeps the library open until 4:30 on one weekday each week. This limited schedule would give students another place to complete assignments without asking the district to commit to a permanent change.

2 The trial would serve students whose schedules do not line up with regular library hours. A classmate who waits for a family pickup could use that time to consult a print source instead of trying to finish a project on a phone. The space could also support students who need a quiet setting for group planning before a competition or presentation. These examples do not prove that every student would attend. They do show why extra time could matter, and the trial would let the school learn how many students actually use it.

3 I recognize that longer hours require supervision and may affect staffing costs. Rather than assume the library can remain open every afternoon, I propose starting with a day when an approved staff member is already available, if the schedule permits. Students could sign in, and the principal could review attendance and staffing costs at the end of eight weeks before recommending any next step. Please consider approving this trial and asking the principal to report the results at a later meeting. Thank you for considering a modest test of a practical need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Whom does the speaker address, and how does the opening show that this speech is meant for that audience?

2. What action does the speaker want the board to authorize? How does the time limit make the request suitable for a board decision?

3. What practical objection does the speaker anticipate, and what steps does the speech propose to address it?

4. Quote one expression of formal English from the speech and explain why it fits a school board audience.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 80- to 110-word paragraph for a speech to your principal proposing a trial change to a school procedure other than library access. Use formal English, give two reasons for the change, address one practical concern, and state the action you want the principal to take.

ANSWER KEY

A Case for Access

GRADE 11 · 11.LL.23

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the specific action the speaker requests, circle two expressions suited to a school board audience, and number two reasons the speaker gives for the request. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Whom does the speaker address, and how does the opening show that this speech is meant for that audience?	**The speaker addresses the school board directly as its members and offers a student perspective on library access, an issue the board can consider.**
2	What action does the speaker want the board to authorize? How does the time limit make the request suitable for a board decision?	**The speaker requests an eight-week trial of library hours until 4:30 on one weekday each week. The limited trial lets the board consider a change without committing to permanent hours.**
3	What practical objection does the speaker anticipate, and what steps does the speech propose to address it?	**Longer hours require supervision and may cost more. The speaker suggests choosing a day when staff are available, having students sign in, and reviewing attendance and costs after eight weeks.**
4	Quote one expression of formal English from the speech and explain why it fits a school board audience.	**For example, "Please consider approving this trial" makes a respectful, direct request to the board.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Alvarez, I ask you to test a five-minute extension to the passing period between second and third period for four weeks. The science wing and the music rooms are far apart, and I have seen students arrive after instruction begins when they travel between them. A longer transition could also ease crowding near the main staircase. I understand that extra time could delay lunch, so the trial could move five minutes from morning advisory instead of lengthening the day. Please review tardy records after four weeks and decide whether this change should continue.

Accept different relevant reasons and formal expressions when students support them with the speech. For Part 3, look for a specific request to the principal, two reasons, a practical concern, and a formal tone within the word limit.