Three Voices, One Detour

Compare how spoken messages change with audience and purpose.

12.LL.20 "Evaluate the formality of language in a variety of audible sources to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two formal phrases in the transit announcement, circle two informal expressions in the friend's message, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each quoted message, where 1 is most casual and 3 is most formal.

The Stop at Pine Street

1. At 6:10 a.m., a commuter calls the city transit line and hears a recorded announcement. The speaker's measured pace and even tone make each stop name easy to catch: “Due to scheduled roadwork, Route 8 will not serve the Oak Street stop until 9 a.m. Passengers should board at the Pine Street stop during this period.” The recording repeats the stop names, then offers a menu for further questions. It does not address any rider by name. A faint click follows each option, and the commuter writes both stop names on a scrap of paper before leaving home.

2. A few minutes later, the commuter plays a voice message from a friend who takes the same bus. With traffic rumbling behind her, the friend speaks quickly and laughs at her own late start: “Heads up, Route 8's skipping Oak Street till nine. I'm walking to Pine. Wanna meet there?” The friend knows the commuter has missed this bus before and does not want to wait alone in the cold. She pauses after the question, then sends a second message saying she will stand beside the bakery near Pine Street.

3. On a local radio broadcast, a host summarizes the disruption for listeners who may be getting ready for work. The host's clear, lively delivery accompanies this update: “If you're taking Route 8 this morning, expect a change. There is no pickup at Oak Street before nine; the transit office directs riders to Pine Street.” A producer signals that the weather report is next, so the host finishes without adding her own travel plans. The commuter hears the same destination in all three recordings but notices that the speakers do not sound alike. Each voice reaches a different audience.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which message is most formal? Cite one phrase and one delivery detail that support your judgment.

2. Identify two expressions that make the friend's message casual. What brief spoken reply would fit her question?

3. Why does the radio host's update fall between the other two messages in formality? Compare its wording with one feature of each.

4. The commuter calls the transit office to check when Oak Street service resumes. Which fits better: “Wanna meet there?” or “Could you please confirm the time service resumes?” Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A theater rehearsal has moved from Thursday at 6 p.m. to Friday at 5 p.m. Write a two-sentence voicemail to the director asking whether the room has changed, then a two-sentence voice message sharing the update with a castmate. Use a fitting level of formality and add one bracketed delivery cue to each message.

ANSWER KEY

Three Voices, One Detour

GRADE 12 · 12.LL.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two formal phrases in the transit announcement, circle two informal expressions in the friend's message, and write 1, 2, or 3 beside each quoted message, where 1 is most casual and 3 is most formal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which message is most formal? Cite one phrase and one delivery detail that support your judgment.	**The transit announcement is most formal. "Passengers should board" addresses riders as a group, and the speaker uses a measured pace and even tone.**
2	Identify two expressions that make the friend's message casual. What brief spoken reply would fit her question?	**"Heads up" and "Wanna meet there?" are casual. An appropriate reply is "Yeah, I'll meet you by the bakery."**
3	Why does the radio host's update fall between the other two messages in formality? Compare its wording with one feature of each.	**The host uses a conversational opening, "If you're taking Route 8," but avoids the friend's slang. She also attributes directions to the transit office without using the announcement's formal instruction, "Passengers should board."**
4	The commuter calls the transit office to check when Oak Street service resumes. Which fits better: "Wanna meet there?" or "Could you please confirm the time service resumes?" Explain why.	**"Could you please confirm the time service resumes?" fits a request to transit staff. "Wanna meet there?" is the friend's personal invitation, not a question about service.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Director [steady, respectful]: Good afternoon, Ms. Alvarez; I understand rehearsal has moved from Thursday at 6 p.m. to Friday at 5 p.m. Could you please confirm whether we will use the same room?
Castmate [bright, casual]: Hey, rehearsal got bumped from Thursday at six to Friday at five! I'll see you then, but I still need to check which room we're using.

Accept different rankings of the radio message only if students support them with specific wording and delivery details. For the open task, check that each message has two sentences, an appropriate bracketed delivery cue, and a level of formality suited to its listener.