Make the Case

A model speech for college and workforce decision-makers

12.LL.23 "Deliver a speech suitable for a professional audience of college and/or workforce stakeholders for a specific purpose, demonstrating command of formal English."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main request, circle two details that address college or employer priorities, and number the two actions requested at the end of the speech.

A Paid Internship Pilot

(1) Members of the college advisory council and our employer partners, thank you for considering a practical change to our internship program. Last spring, several students in the advanced manufacturing pathway declined placements because the positions were unpaid. A placement that requires twenty hours a week can carry a substantial cost for students who also earn wages to cover rent or transportation. I ask this council to establish a paid internship pilot for the coming semester. Our purpose is not to lower expectations for workplace learning, but to make those expectations reachable for qualified students with limited financial flexibility.

(2) Under the pilot, five participating employers would each offer one paid placement for ten weeks. The college career office would advertise the openings, screen applicants using published criteria, and assign a faculty contact to each intern. Employers would set job duties and provide a supervisor who meets with the intern weekly. To limit uncertainty, the college and employers could agree on an hourly rate and a written budget before recruitment begins. This structure gives employers a manageable commitment while giving students supervised work that builds skills they can describe in future interviews.

(3) At the end of ten weeks, the career office could collect feedback from interns and supervisors about attendance, skill development, and the usefulness of assigned tasks. That information would help the council decide whether to continue, revise, or end the pilot. I recognize that employers must account for staffing costs, and I am not asking anyone to approve an unlimited program today. I ask you to authorize planning for five paid placements and to review a proposed budget at next month's meeting. A modest, measurable first step would serve students and give employers a clear basis for a longer-term decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What specific decision does the speaker want the council to make, and why is that request more precise than a general call to support students?

2. Identify one proposed responsibility for the college and one for employers. How do these details show that the speech is tailored to both groups?

3. Quote one phrase that helps the speaker maintain a formal, professional tone. Explain why it suits this audience.

4. How does the speaker address a likely employer concern before asking the council to take two actions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90-110 word, one-paragraph speech to a college advisory council and employer partners proposing a shared laptop-loan pilot for students in career-training courses. Make a specific request, address a concern of each audience, use formal English, and end with a concrete next step.

ANSWER KEY

Make the Case

GRADE 12 · 12.LL.23

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main request, circle two details that address college or employer priorities, and number the two actions requested at the end of the speech. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What specific decision does the speaker want the council to make, and why is that request more precise than a general call to support students?	**The speaker wants the council to establish a paid internship pilot for the coming semester. The request names a defined program rather than asking for support in general.**
2	Identify one proposed responsibility for the college and one for employers. How do these details show that the speech is tailored to both groups?	**The college would screen applicants using published criteria, and employers would provide weekly supervisor meetings. The plan assigns each group a role it could carry out.**
3	Quote one phrase that helps the speaker maintain a formal, professional tone. Explain why it suits this audience.	**For example, "To limit uncertainty" introduces a practical budget safeguard in measured language suited to decision-makers.**
4	How does the speaker address a likely employer concern before asking the council to take two actions?	**The speaker acknowledges staffing costs and says the proposal is not an unlimited program. The council is then asked to authorize planning for five placements and review a budget next month.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the advisory council and employer partners, I propose a six-week laptop-loan pilot for students in career-training courses. The college could manage reservations, device maintenance, and a clear return policy, while participating employers could sponsor a small pool of laptops. Reliable access would let students complete software-based assignments outside campus hours and practice tools relevant to the workplace. I recognize that equipment can be lost or damaged, so the college should document each loan and set aside funds for repairs. Please authorize the career office to draft a budget and invite employers to review it before the next council meeting.

Accept other accurate passage details and formal phrases when students explain their relevance. For the original speech, check that both audiences' concerns are addressed and that the final request names an actionable next step.