Messages With Motives

Read three digital sources about one park proposal.

7.DL.12 "Determine the intended purposes of techniques used for rhetorical effect in multiple digital sources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase from each digital source that seems designed to influence its audience, then write a short note beside each phrase explaining what it tries to make people think or do.

A Refill Station for the Skate Park?

1. In Brookbend, the town council is considering a water bottle refill station at the public skate park. A neighborhood group posts this message on its social media page: "Still buying another plastic bottle after every run? One new refill station could make water easier to find and mean fewer empty bottles in the trash. Tell the council you want a refill station!" The post ends with a link labeled "Send your comment today." Several skaters share the post before the council meets.

2. On its website, Brookbend's parks office publishes a page called "Refill Station Questions." It asks, "Will the station be free to use?" and answers, "The proposed design would offer free drinking water, but the council has not approved a location or funding yet." Another entry asks how repairs would be handled and says staff are reviewing maintenance options. At the bottom, a note explains that visitors can send comments until Friday. A link leads to the full meeting agenda for anyone who wants details.

3. A student-run podcast posts a transcript from a short interview with two skaters. Its opening line reads, "A place to refill. A place to pause. A place to meet." One skater describes carrying a heavy bottle from home; the other says a fountain near the entrance already works for them. The host ends, "Before you choose a side, visit the park and tell us what you notice." Under the transcript, listeners can leave a voice message for next week's episode, when the council plans to discuss the proposal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the neighborhood group open its post with a question about buying plastic bottles?

2. Why does the parks office say that the council has not approved a location or funding yet?

3. What effect is the repeated phrase “A place to” meant to have in the podcast’s opening?

4. How do the social post’s command to tell the council and the parks page’s meeting-agenda link serve different purposes?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a one-sentence student social post and a one-sentence school website notice about whether to add covered bike racks, using a different rhetorical technique in each. Then write one sentence per message explaining how its technique is meant to affect readers.

Messages With Motives

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase from each digital source that seems designed to influence its audience, then write a short note beside each phrase explaining what it tries to make people think or do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the neighborhood group open its post with a question about buying plastic bottles?	**The question reminds readers of an inconvenience they may know, making them more likely to support the refill station.**
2	Why does the parks office say that the council has not approved a location or funding yet?	**The qualification makes clear what is still undecided, helping readers trust the information rather than mistake the proposal for a final plan.**
3	What effect is the repeated phrase "A place to" meant to have in the podcast's opening?	**It draws attention to several possible uses of the station and makes it sound valuable beyond providing water.**
4	How do the social post's command to tell the council and the parks page's meeting-agenda link serve different purposes?	**The command urges readers to support the station now. The agenda link lets readers learn more before forming or sharing an opinion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Student post: Wet seats, wet helmets, wet rides: let's ask for covered bike racks! School website: Covered racks could help on rainy days, but the school must check space and cost before deciding. The student post repeats "wet" to make the problem feel urgent. The website notice admits limits to show readers the plan is still being studied.

Accept other passage-supported purposes for the marked phrases and short answers. For Your Turn, look for two distinct techniques and a plausible intended effect for each.