Heat Message Choices

Compare how word choice shifts across public messages.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.3 "Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase in each paragraph that shows the writer's relationship to readers. Circle words or phrases that make the paragraph sound precise, conversational, or formal.

Three Heat Messages

1. At 11:00 a.m., the Riverton weather station recorded a heat index of 103 degrees Fahrenheit. The heat index combines air temperature and humidity to show how hot conditions feel to the human body. City health officials advise residents to move strenuous outdoor activities to early morning or evening, drink water regularly, and check on neighbors who may lack air conditioning. Cooling centers at the Eastside Library and the North Recreation Center will remain open until 8:00 p.m. People who feel dizzy, confused, or faint should seek medical help promptly.

2. By noon, the pavement seemed to hold the sun like a heavy blanket. If your apartment feels stuffy, come by the Eastside Library, where the lights are on, the water fountain is cold, and chairs are waiting. Bring a book, a phone charger, or just yourself. We're keeping the doors open until 8 tonight, and volunteers can point you toward other cooling sites. Check in on our blocks, especially if an older neighbor has not answered a call or a knock. Please pass the note along.

3. To reduce heat-related illness during the current advisory, the Department of Public Works recommends extending library and recreation-center hours through Friday. This measure would provide air-conditioned spaces in neighborhoods where many homes were built before central cooling became common. The department also proposes distributing bottled water at transit hubs between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m., when daily temperatures are often highest. Council members should authorize up to $18,000 from the emergency response fund and direct staff to report attendance, supply use, and any needed adjustments at next week's meeting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which paragraph relies most on precise, measurable details? Cite two details and explain how they affect the message's style.

2. What does the image "hold the sun like a heavy blanket" add that the heat-index statement in paragraph 1 does not?

3. How do "We're" and "our blocks" shape the relationship between the writer and the reader in paragraph 2?

4. Why do words such as "authorize," "emergency response fund," and "report attendance" fit paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school service that could help students. Write two versions of the same announcement, each 35 to 45 words: first, a post for the school social feed, then a formal recommendation to the principal. Keep the main information the same, but change the language for each context.

ANSWER KEY

Heat Message Choices

HIGH SCHOOL · L.11-12.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase in each paragraph that shows the writer's relationship to readers. Circle words or phrases that make the paragraph sound precise, conversational, or formal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph relies most on precise, measurable details? Cite two details and explain how they affect the message's style.	**Paragraph 1. Details such as "11:00 a.m.," "103 degrees Fahrenheit," and "until 8:00 p.m." create a precise, informative style.**
2	What does the image "hold the sun like a heavy blanket" add that the heat-index statement in paragraph 1 does not?	**It gives a sensory, vivid feeling of trapped heat, while the heat-index statement gives factual information.**
3	How do "We're" and "our blocks" shape the relationship between the writer and the reader in paragraph 2?	**They create a conversational, inclusive tone and suggest that the writer and reader belong to the same community.**
4	Why do words such as "authorize," "emergency response fund," and "report attendance" fit paragraph 3?	**They fit a formal public decision-making context because they focus on funding, official approval, and accountability.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Need a quiet place to finish exam prep? The library will stay open until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Stop in after school for tables, computers, and help finding materials. Tell a friend who could use a calm place to work. I recommend extending library hours until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday during examination week. The additional access would provide supervised study space, computer availability, and research assistance after regular classes end. Staff should record attendance to evaluate whether the schedule merits continuation.

Accept other well-supported explanations of tone and context when students cite relevant language from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied school services if both versions contain the same core information and clearly adjust diction, tone, and sentence structure for their intended contexts.