

Say It Right

Match your words to the audience, purpose, and setting.

HIGH SCHOOL • SL.9-10.6

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.6 "Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak one at a time.

2 Use a Move card only after you say its starter aloud.

3 Keep your words connected to the Topic card.

4 Use formal English when the audience or task calls for it.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and read the task together.
2. Each player takes one different Role card. Put unused Role cards aside.
3. Use two printed sets of Move cards. Deal four cards to each player. In a three-player group, leave the four extra cards face down.
4. Take turns adding to the group plan. When you genuinely use a sentence starter from your hand, place that card in the middle.
5. The round ends when all dealt Move cards are in the middle. Check the reflection statements together.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I considered my audience before I spoke.

☐ I matched my tone to the task and setting.

☐ I used formal English when it fit the audience or purpose.

☐ I revised words that sounded unclear, too casual, or inappropriate.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Principal Proposal How should your group ask the principal to add a supervised quiet study space after school? Plan a 30-second formal proposal.	Ninth Grade Talk How should your group explain to ninth graders how to prepare for their first high school presentation? Plan a brief, friendly talk.	Art Night Invite How should your group invite families to a student art night? Plan a short school announcement.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Audience Scout Keep the group focused on who will hear the message and what that audience needs.	Tone Coach Notice whether the wording sounds respectful, friendly, serious, or appropriate for the setting.	Word Editor Suggest clearer or more formal wording when the task calls for it.	Purpose Pilot Keep the group focused on what the message needs to accomplish.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD AUDIENCE FOCUS “Since our audience is ____, we should use ____.”	MOVE CARD AUDIENCE FOCUS “Our audience may care most about ____, so we should mention ____.”	MOVE CARD FORMAL REVISION “A more formal way to say that is, “____.””	MOVE CARD FORMAL REVISION “Instead of saying “____,” I would say “____.””
MOVE CARD PURPOSE LINK “To persuade our audience, we need to explain ____.”	MOVE CARD PURPOSE LINK “Our main request is ____, so we should support it with ____.”	MOVE CARD tone TEST “The tone should be ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD tone TEST “This phrase sounds ____, so I would change it to ____.”

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the eight Move cards for each group. In groups of three, deal 12 cards and leave four undealt, and end the round when all dealt cards have been played. If one student dominates, require that each player place at least two cards before any player places a third card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	Since our audience is the principal, we should use respectful, formal language.
Leo	To persuade our audience, we need to explain that students need a quiet place for tutoring and homework after school.
Ava	Instead of saying "We need a chill room," I would say "We request a supervised quiet study space."
Maya	Our main request is a quiet study space after school, so we should support it with student needs and a plan for supervision.
Leo	The tone should be respectful and practical because the principal must consider safety and staffing.

LISTEN FOR

- Word choices that match a specific audience
- A clear reason for using formal or informal language
- Revisions from casual or vague phrasing to precise phrasing
- Tone choices connected to purpose and setting

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.