After the Bell

Analyze how an editorial persuades a school board.

ELA.10.R.3.4 "Analyze an author's use of rhetoric in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main claim, circle the rhetorical question, box the concession and response to it, and number the repeated words or phrases that appeal to the board's values.

Open the Library Doors

1 On Tuesday, the school board will decide whether to keep the library open until 6:00 p.m. three days each week. This is not a request for a luxury. It is a request for a dependable place to work. Many students share bedrooms, care for younger siblings, or wait for rides after activities. A quiet table, internet access, and a librarian can turn an unfinished assignment into completed learning. When the final bell rings, should a student's chance to study disappear too? The board can give students time, tools, and trust by approving the extended hours.

2 Some opponents say the plan would cost too much. Their concern deserves an answer. The proposal uses the library's existing rooms and computers, and it schedules current staff members for paid extra hours rather than building a new space. The board already funds buses, tutoring, and athletics because learning does not end inside one classroom. Library access supports those investments. A student who can research after practice, print an application, or ask for help is more likely to use the opportunities the district has provided. The cost matters, but so does the cost of leaving a useful public space locked.

3 Keeping the library open would also tell students what this school believes. It would say that effort deserves support, that questions deserve answers, and that every student deserves a place to begin. Those repeated promises are not abstract. They matter to the ninth grader revising an essay while a parent works late and to the senior completing a scholarship form before a deadline. Board members, choose the plan that matches the values printed in every course guide: access, responsibility, and growth. Open the doors after school, and let those values become visible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 1 support the writer's argument?

2. What opposing view does the writer concede in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?

3. What phrase pattern is repeated in paragraph 3, and what effect does it create?

4. How do the examples of individual students strengthen the writer's appeal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence message to a school decision maker supporting a different school improvement. Include a rhetorical question, a specific example of a person affected, and a repeated word or phrase in your first three sentences, then explain in the fourth sentence how two of your choices persuade your audience.

ANSWER KEY # After the Bell

GRADE 10 · ELA.10.R.3.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim, circle the rhetorical question, box the concession and response to it, and number the repeated words or phrases that appeal to the board's values. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the rhetorical question in paragraph 1 support the writer's argument?	**It suggests that students should not lose their chance to study when school ends, making extended library hours seem necessary rather than optional.**
2	What opposing view does the writer concede in paragraph 2, and how does the writer respond to it?	**The writer concedes that the plan may cost too much, then argues that it uses existing space and equipment, requires no new building, and supports investments the district already makes.**
3	What phrase pattern is repeated in paragraph 3, and what effect does it create?	**The repeated pattern is "deserves" in statements about effort, questions, and every student. It emphasizes fairness and presents library access as a value the school should uphold.**
4	How do the examples of individual students strengthen the writer's appeal?	**The examples make the issue personal and concrete by showing how students could use the library to revise work, complete applications, research, print, or get help.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school should install more water bottle filling stations near the gym. Why should athletes have to search across campus for drinking water after practice? A runner who refills a bottle quickly can return to class prepared, and every student deserves convenient water, every student deserves a healthy choice. The question makes the problem urgent, while the repeated phrase emphasizes fairness.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a rhetorical choice to its persuasive effect and support the explanation with passage details. For the open response, accept another school improvement if all required rhetorical elements are present and the final sentence accurately explains two choices.