

# Speak With Purpose

Analyze how a public statement turns evidence into a clear call to action.

**ELA.12.C.2.1** “Present information orally, with a logical organization, coherent focus, and credible evidence while employing effective rhetorical devices where appropriate.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the speaker’s central request, circle each source-backed fact, and number the three major moves in the speech. These marks will help you trace the speech’s focus, organization, and use of evidence.

### Water, Health, Accountability

- ① Members of the council, our city should publish a block-by-block plan to replace lead service lines, the pipes that connect water mains to homes. This is not a distant infrastructure issue. It is a household health issue, especially for children and pregnant people. The Environmental Protection Agency states that no safe level of lead exposure has been identified for children. When families cannot tell whether the pipe beneath their yard contains lead, uncertainty flows from the tap along with the water. Tonight, I will explain the risk, show why action is possible, and ask for a public replacement schedule.
- ② First, the health case is clear. Lead can affect the brain and nervous system, and young children are particularly vulnerable, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Second, replacing lines is achievable, not imaginary. The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$15 billion for lead service line replacement nationwide. Federal money does not remove every local decision, but it gives cities a tool. A published schedule would let residents see which neighborhoods come first, how contractors will work, and when water testing will occur. We repair streets before potholes spread. We should repair drinking-water connections before preventable exposure spreads.
- ③ Therefore, I ask the council to direct the water department to release its inventory of lead service lines within six months and to hold quarterly public updates. The inventory is the map, and the schedule is the promise that makes the map useful. Some may argue that disclosure will alarm residents. Yet silence does not protect a family, and clear information allows families to use certified filters or seek testing while replacement is planned. This proposal does not claim that one meeting will solve a decades-old problem. It asks for the first accountable step, because every household deserves to know what carries its water.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What is the speaker's central request, and how does the first paragraph prepare listeners for it?

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**2** Identify two pieces of credible evidence the speaker uses. Name the source for each piece of evidence.

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**3** How do the words "First," "Second," and "Therefore" help organize the speech?

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**4** What rhetorical device appears in the sentence about repairing streets before potholes spread, and how does it support the speaker's point?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Draft a 90- to 110-word oral statement to a school board about a different school or community issue. Include a clear request, two facts credited to credible sources, one rhetorical device, a concern and response, and a specific next step.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline the speaker's central request, circle each source-backed fact, and number the three major moves in the speech. These marks will help you trace the speech's focus, organization, and use of evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                    | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the speaker's central request, and how does the first paragraph prepare listeners for it?                                           | <b>The speaker asks for a public, block-by-block replacement schedule for lead service lines. The opening frames the issue as a household health concern and previews the risk, feasibility, and request.</b>                                                                                                                         |
| 2 | Identify two pieces of credible evidence the speaker uses. Name the source for each piece of evidence.                                      | <b>The EPA states that no safe level of lead exposure has been identified for children. The CDC says lead can affect the brain and nervous system and that young children are particularly vulnerable. The speaker also cites the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's \$15 billion for nationwide lead service line replacement.</b> |
| 3 | How do the words "First," "Second," and "Therefore" help organize the speech?                                                               | <b>They signal a logical sequence: the health risk, the feasibility of replacement, and the final action request.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4 | What rhetorical device appears in the sentence about repairing streets before potholes spread, and how does it support the speaker's point? | <b>It is an analogy or comparison. It makes preventive replacement seem like a familiar, sensible form of maintenance before harm grows.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Members of the school board, move high school's first bell to 8:30 a.m. or later. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends start times of 8:30 or later for middle and high schools, and the CDC says teens ages 13 to 18 need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Our current schedule asks tired students to learn before their bodies are ready. Time is not a luxury, it is learning's foundation. Some families may worry about transportation and activities. However, the district can study bus routes before setting a date. Begin that study this fall and publish its findings.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the speech's claim, evidence, organizational structure, and rhetorical device when they are supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a coherent oral structure, accurately credited evidence, an appropriate rhetorical device, and a clear action request.