Words at Work

Trace how public language shapes a local decision.

10.L.V.3 "Meaning & Purpose: Analyze and craft nuanced words and phrases in a variety of texts and for a variety of purposes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that do more than report facts, then number them 1 through 4. In the margin, write the idea or feeling each phrase adds.

A Bridge Decision

1. At Tuesday's meeting, the Riverton Council will consider replacing the wooden footbridge over Alder Creek. The bridge carries students, dog walkers, and cyclists between the east neighborhood and the library. An engineering report found rot in several support beams after spring flooding. In the meeting notice, officials call the project a "needed safeguard" and say construction could begin in October. The notice also describes the bridge as a "daily thread" between two parts of town. If approved, the work would take about four months and cost $680,000.

2. Some residents support the plan but question its timing. In a letter to the council, Maya Chen writes, "A safer crossing matters, yet the library should not become harder to reach for the people who use it most." She asks for a shuttle during construction and questions whether pedestrians can accept a "temporary inconvenience." A nearby shop owner takes a different approach, calling the project "an investment in the creek district's future." He predicts that a wider, accessible bridge could bring more visitors to local businesses. Neither writer disputes the report's finding about the damaged beams.

3. Before the vote, council members must decide how to describe the disruption as well as how to fund the work. One draft announcement says the path will be "closed." Another says it will be "unavailable while crews rebuild the crossing." A third draft begins, "For four months, pedestrians will use the marked route along Pine Street." Council member Luis Ortega proposes adding exact shuttle hours and a map. He asks the group to consider families walking to the library, older residents, and visitors who may not know the neighborhood. The council's final wording will appear on signs, online notices, and letters sent to nearby homes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the phrase “needed safeguard” shape the way readers may view the bridge project?

2. What does describing the bridge as a “daily thread” suggest about its role in Riverton?

3. Why might Maya Chen question the phrase “temporary inconvenience” for pedestrians? Use one detail from her letter in your answer.

4. Which draft announcement gives pedestrians the most useful information for planning, and why?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence public notice about a different school or community improvement that causes a short-term change. Include one phrase that frames the improvement and one concrete detail that helps readers plan.

Words at Work

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that do more than report facts, then number them 1 through 4. In the margin, write the idea or feeling each phrase adds. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the phrase "needed safeguard" shape the way readers may view the bridge project?	**It presents the project as a necessary action that protects people, rather than as an optional improvement.**
2	What does describing the bridge as a "daily thread" suggest about its role in Riverton?	**It suggests that the bridge regularly connects two parts of town and the people who use them.**
3	Why might Maya Chen question the phrase "temporary inconvenience" for pedestrians? Use one detail from her letter in your answer.	**The phrase can minimize the access problem. Chen worries that the library could become harder to reach and asks for a shuttle.**
4	Which draft announcement gives pedestrians the most useful information for planning, and why?	**The third draft gives the most useful information because it states the four-month length of the change and names the marked route on Pine Street.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To protect our busy entrance, the school will replace the worn front steps during the first week of April. Students should use the south ramp from 7:30 to 8:15 each morning.

Accept annotations of phrases that add evaluation, imagery, reassurance, concern, or useful planning information, if the student explains a reasonable effect. For Part 3, accept varied topics if the response has exactly two sentences, includes both required elements, and uses purposeful wording.