Syntax With Purpose

Track how sentence choices guide a public decision.

10.P.AC.1.c "Explain, analyze, and evaluate how the author's use of sentence structure and syntax affects the target audience and supports the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every sentence with seven words or fewer. Circle each sentence that begins with Because, If, When, or Then, and consider how these choices guide City Council members toward action.

A Cooler Route for Riverbend

1. Members of the Riverbend City Council, summer heat does not fall evenly across our city. On streets with few trees, pavement absorbs sunlight and releases stored heat after sunset, leaving walkers and bus riders with little relief. The problem is visible at the Route 8 stop beside the library. At noon, there is no shade. By evening, the bench is still warm. Because older adults, children, and outdoor workers wait there, this small space deserves prompt attention. It also serves a busy clinic and an apartment complex nearby.

2. A pilot shade corridor would offer a practical response. The city could plant drought-tolerant trees where soil and utility lines allow, then add shade structures at stops where trees need years to grow. This plan is not a promise of instant comfort. It is a sequence: protect people now, build living shade for later, and measure temperatures along the route. If the council approves one corridor this fall, staff can compare shaded and unshaded stops next summer. The results could guide future spending across the whole city.

3. Some may ask why a bus stop should shape a citywide decision. Look closely at the stop. It connects a library, a clinic, apartments, and a route used by people who may not have air-conditioned cars. When public spaces become unsafe or unbearable during heat, residents lose more than comfort; they lose access to daily services. Fund the pilot. Then publish the temperature data, the costs, and the riders' observations. A careful test will not solve every hot street, but it will show whether Riverbend can make its busiest blocks safer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the short sentences, "At noon, there is no shade" and "By evening, the bench is still warm," affect City Council members? Explain how this syntax supports the author's purpose.

2. Analyze the sentence beginning with "Because" in paragraph 1. How does placing the reason before the request affect the council audience?

3. What does the if-clause in paragraph 2 suggest about the proposed pilot? How does this sentence structure support the text's purpose?

4. Evaluate the two commands near the end of paragraph 3, "Fund the pilot" and "Then publish..." How do their structure and order influence the target audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100-word proposal to a school decision maker about one improvement. Include a sentence of seven words or fewer, an if-clause, and a three-item series. After the proposal, write one sentence explaining how your syntax suits your audience and purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Syntax With Purpose

GRADE 10 · 10.P.AC.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every sentence with seven words or fewer. Circle each sentence that begins with Because, If, When, or Then, and consider how these choices guide City Council members toward action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the short sentences, "At noon, there is no shade" and "By evening, the bench is still warm," affect City Council members? Explain how this syntax supports the author's purpose.	**The brief sentences make the heat problem feel immediate and concrete. They emphasize that the stop is uncomfortable both at midday and later, supporting the request for prompt action.**
2	Analyze the sentence beginning with "Because" in paragraph 1. How does placing the reason before the request affect the council audience?	**The sentence names older adults, children, and outdoor workers before stating that the space deserves attention. This structure gives the council a human reason to act and makes the request sound urgent.**
3	What does the if-clause in paragraph 2 suggest about the proposed pilot? How does this sentence structure support the text's purpose?	**The if-clause links council approval to a specific future result, comparing shaded and unshaded stops. It presents the proposal as a practical test rather than an unsupported demand.**
4	Evaluate the two commands near the end of paragraph 3, "Fund the pilot" and "Then publish..." How do their structure and order influence the target audience?	**The direct commands urge the council to act first and then be accountable through public evidence. Their order makes the proposal sound clear, organized, and responsible.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Chen, our school should install two water-refill stations near the gym and cafeteria. Students need water. After practice or lunch, long lines at the few existing fountains can make students late for class. If the school adds refill stations before spring sports begin, athletes and other students can fill reusable bottles quickly. Start with a one-semester trial. Track the number of refills, maintenance costs, and student comments. This clear evidence will help the school decide whether to expand the program. The short sentence adds urgency, while the if-clause and three-part series show the principal a practical, measurable plan.

Accept answers that identify a specific sentence pattern and explain its effect on City Council members and the proposal's purpose. For the open task, accept varied school improvements if the proposal meets the length and syntax requirements and the explanation accurately connects syntax to audience and purpose.