Words That Move

Analyze how a public comment guides a council decision.

10.P.AC.2.b "Craft words and phrases in order to influence the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions of the target audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases crafted to make council members care or act. Circle both questions that press council members to reflect, then number the two direct requests 1 and 2.

A Shelter at Maple Avenue

1 Members of the Riverton City Council, a bus stop should not feel like a test of endurance. On July afternoons, riders wait beside bare pavement as sunlight reflects heat upward. Older adults, students, and workers without cars use this stop to reach clinics, school, and jobs. A shaded shelter would offer more than comfort. It would give riders a safer place to wait during heat advisories and make public transit a more dependable choice. I ask the council to fund a shelter with a roof, bench, and posted route information at the Maple Avenue stop.

2 Some may see the project as a small convenience, but its absence carries a larger cost. When people avoid a stop because there is no shade or clear schedule, they may miss appointments, arrive late, or choose a costly ride instead. A roof and route sign cannot erase every transit problem, yet they send a practical message: riders belong in our city plans. The council has an opportunity to protect neighbors before the hottest days arrive. Choosing this improvement now is a responsible use of public space, not an optional extra.

3 Consider the choice from a rider's point of view. After a long shift, would you want to stand on exposed concrete while checking a phone for a delayed bus? What does it say about our priorities if the people who rely on transit receive the least protection from heat? Please direct staff to include the Maple Avenue shelter in the next capital budget. That decision would show riders that the council sees their daily trips, respects their time, and is prepared to solve a visible problem.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the target audience, and what specific decision does the writer want that audience to make?

2. How does the phrase "a test of endurance" influence the council's view of the bus stop?

3. The writer says the shelter is "not an optional extra." What response from council members is this phrase meant to prevent?

4. How are the two questions in the third paragraph meant to influence council members?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 80 word statement to your school principal urging one specific improvement. Include one concrete detail, at least two phrases chosen to influence the principal's response, one direct request, and one question.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 10 · 10.P.AC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases crafted to make council members care or act. Circle both questions that press council members to reflect, then number the two direct requests 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the target audience, and what specific decision does the writer want that audience to make?	**The target audience is the Riverton City Council. The writer wants it to fund and include a shelter at the Maple Avenue bus stop in the next capital budget.**
2	How does the phrase "a test of endurance" influence the council's view of the bus stop?	**It makes waiting at the stop sound difficult and exhausting, encouraging the council to see the lack of shelter as a serious problem.**
3	The writer says the shelter is "not an optional extra." What response from council members is this phrase meant to prevent?	**It is meant to prevent council members from dismissing, delaying, or treating the shelter as a low-priority convenience.**
4	How are the two questions in the third paragraph meant to influence council members?	**They ask council members to imagine a rider's experience and consider what neglecting riders says about the city's priorities, pressuring them to act.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Chen, students who stay for sports or care for siblings often lose their only quiet time to study. Last Thursday, the library closed at 3:30 while several students waited for rides and worked in the hallway. This avoidable barrier weakens learning. Please keep the library open until 5:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Should a student's chance to finish an assignment depend on whether a ride arrives early?

Accept explanations that identify a reasonable intended audience response and support it with language from the passage. For the open task, accept varied school improvements if the response meets the word count and includes every requested persuasive element.