Sentences With Purpose

Notice how syntax shifts for different readers and goals.

10.P.AC.2.c "Make decisions about sentence structure and syntax in order to accommodate and influence the audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, circle every question, command, and sentence with fewer than six words. In the margin, label each circle N for neighbors or volunteers or C for city council members, then underline the words that show the action the writer wants readers to take.

A Creek Cleanup Message

1. On Saturday, neighbors will meet at Willow Creek Park to remove litter from the stream bank. Bring gloves, a refillable water bottle, and shoes that can get muddy. The work is simple, but its result matters: plastic bags and cans can wash downstream after heavy rain. If you have only an hour, come anyway. Every filled trash bag keeps the creek safer for turtles, fish, and the people who use the trail. Meet at the south entrance at 9:00 a.m.; volunteers will receive bags, grabbers, and a map of the cleanup area.

2. At the welcome table, check in before you choose a section of the bank. First, sign the safety sheet. Then listen for the team leader's signal, because volunteers must stay clear of the water while trucks collect debris. Do not lift sharp metal, broken glass, or anything you cannot identify. Instead, point it out and call an adult leader. Short directions help a busy group act quickly, especially when wind, noise, and moving equipment make long explanations hard to follow. Work with a partner. Keep your phone charged. Tell the leader when your section is finished.

3. City council members can strengthen this effort by funding two more public trash and recycling stations near Willow Creek Park. Why place them there? Because bins near trail entrances give visitors an easy choice before litter reaches the water. The cleanup proves that residents care, yet volunteer labor cannot replace regular waste service. A small investment could protect wildlife, reduce flooding caused by clogged drains, and keep the park welcoming. Please add the stations to next year's parks budget. Clean water is not a luxury. It is a shared responsibility, and this practical step would help the city meet it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the structure of the sentence "If you have only an hour, come anyway" help persuade neighborhood residents to join the cleanup?

2. Why does the second paragraph use several brief commands, such as "Work with a partner" and "Keep your phone charged"?

3. What effect does the question "Why place them there?" have on city council members before the writer gives a reason?

4. How do the final two sentences of the passage support the writer's purpose of persuading the city council?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence announcement to recruit ninth and tenth graders for a school recycling drive. Include one question, one command, and one sentence of eight words or fewer, using sentence structure to make the action feel immediate.

ANSWER KEY

Sentences With Purpose

GRADE 10 · 10.P.AC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, circle every question, command, and sentence with fewer than six words. In the margin, label each circle N for neighbors or volunteers or C for city council members, then underline the words that show the action the writer wants readers to take. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the structure of the sentence "If you have only an hour, come anyway" help persuade neighborhood residents to join the cleanup?	**It begins with a condition that addresses a time concern, then uses a direct command to invite even busy residents to participate.**
2	Why does the second paragraph use several brief commands, such as "Work with a partner" and "Keep your phone charged"?	**Brief commands give busy volunteers clear, quick safety directions.**
3	What effect does the question "Why place them there?" have on city council members before the writer gives a reason?	**It raises a likely concern and prepares council members for the explanation about placing bins near trail entrances.**
4	How do the final two sentences of the passage support the writer's purpose of persuading the city council?	**The short sentence makes an emphatic claim about clean water, and the next sentence expands that claim into a shared responsibility and practical action.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tired of seeing bottles fill our lunchroom bins? Sort it today. Bring your empty bottles to the blue cart before lunch.

Accept answers that connect a specific syntax choice to its intended audience and purpose. For Part 3, accept any relevant three-sentence announcement that includes a question, a command, and a sentence of eight words or fewer.