Same Message, New Meaning

Analyze how setting, audience, and wording shape a message.

10.T.C.1.b "Evaluate the impact of context and language on a text's reception by the audience. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline language that shapes the tone of each version, and circle details about where or how each version appears. In the margin, number 1, 2, and 3 beside clues that could lead audiences to respond differently.

A Trail Closure Travels

(1) At 6:30 Monday morning, the county parks department placed a notice on its website and social media accounts: "North Ridge Trail is closed from Pine Gate to Lookout Point through May 20. Peregrine falcons are nesting on the cliff. Use River Loop." The post included the department seal, a trail map, and a link to closure rules. Under it, hikers asked whether the overlook remained open and how long the River Loop detour would take. A ranger replied to those questions during the morning before work.

(2) That afternoon, the local climbing club used the same closure dates in its email newsletter. Its version began, "Give the cliff a quiet season." It then listed two indoor climbing gyms and invited members to organize carpools to River Loop. Beside the message was a close photograph of an adult peregrine carrying prey. The newsletter ended with, "Save North Ridge for summer." Several members replied with carpool offers, while one asked whether binoculars were allowed near the trail. The club did not include the county map or the link to closure rules.

(3) On Friday, a popular neighborhood account reposted a cropped image of the original notice. Above the image, the account wrote, "Closed again. Amazing." The crop showed the words "North Ridge Trail is closed," but cut off the end date, the nesting explanation, and the River Loop suggestion. In the comments, some people complained about canceled weekend plans. Others shared old posts about road repairs and parking fees. A few readers asked for the full notice, and one linked to the county page. By evening, the repost had been shared far more often than the climbing club email.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might the county department's website, seal, map, link, and ranger replies affect how hikers receive the first notice?

2. Compare the wording in the county notice with the wording in the climbing club newsletter. How could the club's language affect its members' response?

3. What important information is missing from the cropped repost, and how could that missing context change a reader's interpretation of the closure?

4. How do the caption “Closed again. Amazing.” and the comments about other problems shape the neighborhood account's message differently from the county post?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create two versions of a message about the school library closing early for a pipe repair. Write 40 to 60 words for an official school website and 40 to 60 words for a student club group chat, then write exactly two sentences comparing how the context and language may influence readers.

ANSWER KEY

Same Message, New Meaning

GRADE 10 · 10.T.C.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline language that shapes the tone of each version, and circle details about where or how each version appears. In the margin, number 1, 2, and 3 beside clues that could lead audiences to respond differently. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might the county department's website, seal, map, link, and ranger replies affect how hikers receive the first notice?	**These details can make the notice seem official, reliable, and useful for planning a route.**
2	Compare the wording in the county notice with the wording in the climbing club newsletter. How could the club's language affect its members' response?	**The county uses direct instructions, while the club uses warmer, protective language such as "Give the cliff a quiet season." Club members may be more likely to see the closure as a shared effort and organize alternatives.**
3	What important information is missing from the cropped repost, and how could that missing context change a reader's interpretation of the closure?	**It leaves out the end date, nesting reason, and alternate route. Readers could see the closure as unexplained or indefinite instead of temporary and connected to nesting falcons.**
4	How do the caption "Closed again. Amazing." and the comments about other problems shape the neighborhood account's message differently from the county post?	**The sarcastic caption and older complaints can frame the closure as part of a pattern of local problems, which may lead readers toward frustration rather than route planning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Official school website: The school library will close at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday while maintenance staff repair a leaking pipe. Students who need printing, research help, or a quiet study space should visit before 2:15 p.m. or use the media center in Room 214. Student club group chat: Library closes at 2:30 Thursday because of a pipe repair. If your club needs a meeting spot or you still need to print, grab what you need before 2:15. The media center, Room 214, is open for studying, so send this to your group. The website version uses formal details and services, so readers can plan around a reliable notice. The group-chat version directly mentions clubs and sharing, so students may pass it quickly to teammates.

Accept reasonable claims about reception when students connect them to specific language or context clues in the passage. For the open task, accept varied situations and word choices if both versions meet the word count, fit their audiences, and include an accurate two-sentence comparison.