Words That Move

Analyze how a proposal uses language to build concern and action.

10.T.SS.2 "Craft: Analyze, evaluate, and craft language to produce intended effects in a wide variety of texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that make the problem feel urgent, and circle two that present the plan as workable. These choices show how a writer guides an audience from concern to action.

A Cooler Walk Home

1 At three o'clock, the bus stop on Maple Avenue offers no shelter. The metal bench burns through thin clothes, and the sidewalk seems to throw heat back at waiting riders. On blocks with few trees, summer afternoons can feel like an oven left open. This is not merely uncomfortable. Extreme heat can threaten health, especially for older adults, young children, and people who work outdoors. Our city should treat shade as basic public safety, not as a decorative extra reserved for parks and wealthy streets.

2 Planting street trees will not erase every hot day, but it can change what a walk to school feels like. A leafy canopy cools the pavement beneath it, while bare asphalt stores sunlight and releases heat slowly. Trees also filter some air pollutants and can make a noisy street feel calmer. The city already chooses what its streets communicate. A row of saplings says, "People belong here." A long stretch of blank pavement sends a colder message: hurry, endure, leave. We should choose the first message.

3 Some leaders may call tree planting expensive, and careful budgeting matters. Yet the cost of inaction appears in smaller, repeated moments: a student arriving overheated, a delivery worker searching for relief, a neighbor avoiding the walk to a nearby store. Start where shade is scarcest, near bus stops, schools, and sidewalks without cover. Publish a map, invite residents to help select sites, and protect young trees with regular watering. Let next summer's riders wait beneath leaves instead of staring at a sun-bright bench. That future begins with a practical vote this year.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What intended effect does the opening image of the hot bench and sidewalk have on the reader?

2. How does calling shade “basic public safety” instead of a “decorative extra” strengthen the writer’s claim?

3. What effect does the contrast between the message of saplings and the message of blank pavement create?

4. How do the final two sentences combine an emotional appeal with a practical call to action?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90-110 word proposal paragraph to your principal advocating one school improvement. Use one concrete sensory image to show the problem, a contrast or loaded phrase to frame the change, and a direct request for action.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 10 · 10.T.SS.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that make the problem feel urgent, and circle two that present the plan as workable. These choices show how a writer guides an audience from concern to action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What intended effect does the opening image of the hot bench and sidewalk have on the reader?	**It makes the heat feel immediate and uncomfortable, building concern about the lack of shade.**
2	How does calling shade "basic public safety" instead of a "decorative extra" strengthen the writer's claim?	**It reframes trees as an essential health and safety need, not as an optional beautification project.**
3	What effect does the contrast between the message of saplings and the message of blank pavement create?	**It suggests that street design communicates whether people are welcomed or ignored, supporting the case for planting trees.**
4	How do the final two sentences combine an emotional appeal with a practical call to action?	**The image of riders waiting beneath leaves creates a desirable future, while the call for a vote gives leaders a specific action to take.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At lunch, students crowd around the two working water fountains, watching the line creep forward while the bell gets closer. A school that asks students to focus should not make drinking water a daily obstacle. Installing refill stations near the cafeteria and gym would offer a simple, visible solution. These stations are not fancy decorations; they are tools for health and learning. Choose locations with the longest lines, post the installation schedule, and invite the student council to share feedback. Approve the stations this semester, so students can return to class refreshed instead of rushed.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a quoted or clearly identified language choice to its intended effect on the audience. For Part 3, require a 90-110 word proposal that includes a concrete image, purposeful framing language, and a direct action request.