Persuasion Underline

Track appeals and test the reasoning behind a proposal.

10.T.T.3.b "Analyze the use of rhetorical appeals; identify fallacies in a text. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that use credibility, logic, or emotion. Circle claims with faulty reasoning, and write E, L, P, or F beside each mark to show how the speaker builds or weakens her argument.

A Room to Focus

1 At Tuesday's student council forum, Maya urged the school board to create a quiet study room in the library. She began, "As a peer tutor who meets with students every week, I see how hard it is to focus when every table is full." She also pointed out that the library has an unused conference room during most lunch periods. Her strongest moment described a ninth grader trying to finish homework while rain soaked his backpack after he missed the late bus. "Students deserve one calm place to work," Maya said.

2 Later, Maya made several sharper claims. "Either the board opens this room, or it admits that grades do not matter," she declared. The board has other options, such as adjusting library schedules or adding supervised tables elsewhere. She then claimed, "Everyone I asked wants the room, so every student supports it." During the forum, two students questioned whether the room would be supervised during lunch. Maya answered that trained volunteers could monitor it. They also asked who would set rules for using the space daily.

3 One board member, Mr. Dale, questioned whether a quiet room would add noise to the library. Maya replied, "Do not listen to Mr. Dale's concerns about noise. He has never even helped at a school event." She ended by inviting listeners to imagine a student opening a returned math test in a crowded hallway, unable to ask anyone for help. Maya argued that a study room could offer privacy, supplies, and adult guidance. Several audience members nodded, while others wrote questions on cards for the meeting afterward.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Quote one statement that builds Maya's credibility and one detail that uses logic. Name the appeal used by each.

2. Which image in paragraph 3 appeals to emotion? Explain the response it is meant to create.

3. What two fallacies appear in paragraph 2? Explain the flawed reasoning in each.

4. Why is Maya's statement about Mr. Dale an ad hominem fallacy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence proposal for one school change. Use two different rhetorical appeals, then write a fifth sentence that names a fallacy you avoided and explains how you avoided it.

ANSWER KEY

Persuasion Underline

GRADE 10 · 10.T.T.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline statements that use credibility, logic, or emotion. Circle claims with faulty reasoning, and write E, L, P, or F beside each mark to show how the speaker builds or weakens her argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Quote one statement that builds Maya's credibility and one detail that uses logic. Name the appeal used by each.	**Credibility, or ethos: Maya says she is a peer tutor who meets with students every week. Logic, or logos: she notes that the library has an unused conference room during most lunch periods.**
2	Which image in paragraph 3 appeals to emotion? Explain the response it is meant to create.	**The image of a student opening a returned math test in a crowded hallway and being unable to ask for help appeals to emotion. It is meant to create concern and empathy for students who need support.**
3	What two fallacies appear in paragraph 2? Explain the flawed reasoning in each.	**The either-or statement is a false dilemma because it ignores other options for helping students. The claim that every student supports the room is a hasty generalization because Maya only asked some people.**
4	Why is Maya's statement about Mr. Dale an ad hominem fallacy?	**It attacks Mr. Dale's lack of participation in school events instead of addressing whether his concern about library noise is valid.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should place a covered bike rack near the main entrance. As a student who bikes to school in all seasons, I have seen wet seats and backpacks make the first class harder. A rack beside the entrance would give cyclists a dry, visible place to lock their bikes and could reduce clutter near the doors. Picture arriving after a storm and finding your books dry instead of dripping through the hallway. I avoided a false dilemma because I did not claim that a covered rack is the only way to help cyclists.

Accept equivalent quoted evidence and explanations that accurately connect credibility, practical evidence, or emotion to an audience response. For fallacies, accept false dilemma, hasty generalization, and ad hominem when students explain the specific flaw.