Words That Move

Analyze how a public proposal guides an audience toward action.

11.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 words that name or address the audience, circle vivid details meant to create concern, and number three phrases that press the council toward a vote. These choices reveal how the writer tries to shape the audience's decision.

A Shelter That Says Something

1 Members of the Riverton City Council, every afternoon, riders wait beside the bare Route 6 sign on Mason Avenue. A parent balances a toddler and grocery bags. A hospital employee ends a long shift. During summer heat, that patch of sidewalk offers no shade, no seat, and no drinking water nearby. We call public transit a service for everyone, yet this stop asks its users to endure conditions many drivers would not accept for five minutes. The proposed shelter is not a luxury. It is a basic signal that riders' time, safety, and dignity matter.

2 Council members can change that experience with one practical vote. Approve the shelter before the next hot season, and direct staff to include a bench, a roof, and space for a wheelchair user. These features help riders of different ages and abilities, while also making the stop easier to use in rain. Some may ask whether one small shelter deserves attention when the city has larger projects. But what does a larger project mean to the person standing in direct sun today? A visible improvement at Mason Avenue shows that the council notices everyday barriers, not only headline-making ones.

3 Please place the Mason Avenue shelter on the next consent agenda and fund it this year. That timeline matters: a promise made after summer will not protect riders through summer. The project can begin modestly, but it should begin now. Imagine stepping off a late bus with a child, then finding a cool place to wait rather than another stretch of exposed pavement. Is that not the kind of reliable, humane transit system Riverton says it wants? A yes vote will do more than install metal and shade. It will turn the city's stated commitment to access into something riders can see and use.

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. Which details in the first paragraph are meant to make council members feel concern for riders? Explain how those details could influence the council.

3. How does the writer use the question, "But what does a larger project mean to the person standing in direct sun today?" to influence the audience?

4. Why does the writer say the shelter is "not a luxury" but "a basic signal" that riders matter? What response is this wording designed to create?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 90 word proposal to your principal asking for one practical improvement at school. Address the principal directly, state a clear action, include one rhetorical question and one concrete image, and use wording that makes the action feel timely.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 11 · 11.P.AC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that name or address the audience, circle vivid details meant to create concern, and number three phrases that press the council toward a vote. These choices reveal how the writer tries to shape the audience's decision. 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 the council to place the Mason Avenue shelter on the next consent agenda and fund it this year.**
2	Which details in the first paragraph are meant to make council members feel concern for riders? Explain how those details could influence the council.	**Details such as a parent balancing a toddler and grocery bags, a hospital employee after a long shift, and the lack of shade, seating, and nearby water make riders' discomfort concrete. They can push the council to see the shelter as an urgent need.**
3	How does the writer use the question, "But what does a larger project mean to the person standing in direct sun today?" to influence the audience?	**The question challenges the idea that larger projects should delay the shelter. It directs council members to focus on the immediate experience of a rider waiting in heat.**
4	Why does the writer say the shelter is "not a luxury" but "a basic signal" that riders matter? What response is this wording designed to create?	**The contrast frames the shelter as an essential expression of respect and access, not an optional extra. It is designed to make council members view approval as a responsible, humane decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Lee, please approve a water bottle filling station outside the gym before winter sports begin. Each afternoon, students leave practice thirsty and crowd around a single fountain that was not designed for refilling bottles. A filling station would shorten that line and give athletes a practical way to drink water between classes. Why should students choose between arriving late to class and waiting for water? This small improvement would make a busy hallway healthier, calmer, and more usable.

Accept reasonable responses that identify the council and the requested shelter funding, using passage evidence. For the open task, look for a clear audience, a specific action, purposeful language, a rhetorical question, a concrete image, and a 75 to 90 word response.