The Persuasion Blueprint

Study how sentence choices shape a practical request.

11.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 In paragraph 1, underline the sentence that begins with a dependent clause and circle the sentence that uses a colon. In paragraph 2, box the question, then write beside each mark what response it may invite from Principal Alvarez.

A Request for Early Library Hours

1. Dear Principal Alvarez, Although our library opens at 7:30, many students arrive earlier and wait in the front hallway, where noise and crowded benches make it hard to prepare for class. A supervised early-library hour would give those students a calm place to read, finish assignments, or meet briefly with a teacher. The need is visible each morning: backpacks line the wall, students balance papers on their knees, and late arrivals must step around them. Opening one room, rather than adding a new program, would use a space our school already has.

2. Library staff could unlock the doors at 7:00 and record attendance until the first bell. Two student volunteers, scheduled in weekly pairs, could greet visitors and return misplaced materials to the desk. This limited trial would run for four weeks, so the school could measure participation before making a longer commitment. No extra equipment is needed. Could we begin the trial on the first Monday of October, when fall activities have settled into their regular schedules? A small change could make the start of the day more orderly for students and staff.

3. Your approval would allow the library team to prepare a sign-in sheet, volunteer schedule, and family notice before the trial begins. It would also show students that the school notices practical problems and responds with careful solutions. We can share attendance totals and brief student comments at the November leadership meeting. If the trial does not improve the morning routine, we can end it without further cost. Please approve the four-week early-library trial by September 15 so that students, staff, and families have time to plan for the new schedule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the opening dependent clause in paragraph 1 shape the request for Principal Alvarez?

2. How does the colon sentence in paragraph 1 strengthen the writer's case?

3. Why might the writer place "No extra equipment is needed." as a short, separate sentence after the longer explanation of the trial?

4. How does the structure of the final sentence influence Principal Alvarez?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences to your principal requesting a practical school improvement. Begin one sentence with a dependent clause, use a colon to introduce a list in one sentence, include one separate sentence of 4 to 7 words, and end with a direct request that includes a deadline and a reason.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 11 · 11.P.AC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In paragraph 1, underline the sentence that begins with a dependent clause and circle the sentence that uses a colon. In paragraph 2, box the question, then write beside each mark what response it may invite from Principal Alvarez. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening dependent clause in paragraph 1 shape the request for Principal Alvarez?	**It acknowledges the library's current opening time before presenting the problem, making the request sound practical rather than demanding.**
2	How does the colon sentence in paragraph 1 strengthen the writer's case?	**Its quick series of concrete observations makes the crowded hallway problem vivid and specific.**
3	Why might the writer place "No extra equipment is needed." as a short, separate sentence after the longer explanation of the trial?	**The short sentence emphasizes that the proposal is simple and may ease concerns about cost or complexity.**
4	How does the structure of the final sentence influence Principal Alvarez?	**It gives a direct action, a deadline, and a reason for acting by that date, which makes a decision easier to make.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Although many students bike to school, the racks near the gym offer no shelter during rain or snow. A covered rack would protect three things: bicycles, helmets, and students' time before first period. The space already exists. Please approve a covered rack by January 10 so the facilities team can include it in its winter work plan.

Accept supported explanations that connect a sentence structure choice to the principal's likely concerns and the writer's purpose. For the writing task, accept varied school improvements if the response has exactly four sentences and includes every required structure.