The Last Ride

Trace how a public comment uses role, audience, and local conditions to shape its claim.

11.P.ST.2.b "Draw from knowledge of author, audience, and context to discern and establish a clear point of view or unique perspective when interpreting and constructing texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that reveal the writer's point of view, circle clues about the intended audience, and number the facts that create the local context. Use your marks to see how the writer shapes the argument.

Public Comment on Route 6

1 Members of the Harbor City Council, I am writing as a junior at Eastside High and as a regular rider of Route 6. Your proposed budget would end evening service after 7:00 p.m. next fall. For many residents, that schedule may sound reasonable. For students who stay for tutoring, rehearsal, or a late shift, it turns a bus route into a daytime service we cannot use. My concern is not that the city should spend without limits. It is that this particular cut places its heaviest burden on people who have the fewest ways to avoid it.

2 I know the council must close a budget gap. Route 6 is not empty, yet that fact does not prove every existing trip is efficient. Still, ridership counts alone cannot measure what happens when the last bus leaves before a worker's shift ends. A parent with a car can change plans. A teenager whose family shares one car may have to miss an activity, pay for a ride, or walk along poorly lit roads. When officials compare savings, they should also ask who loses access. That question matters especially in Eastside, where many households do not own a second vehicle.

3 I ask you to preserve service until 9:30 p.m., even if the city reduces the number of late buses or reviews the schedule after six months. This is a practical compromise, not a demand for unlimited spending. Council members represent the whole city, including residents who do not attend budget meetings or have flexible transportation. Keeping a modest evening schedule would let Eastside students and workers reach school, jobs, and home safely. If the council adopts a different plan, it should first show how riders without cars will travel after 7:00 p.m. That is the public impact this budget discussion must not overlook.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's role, and how does that role shape the writer's concern? Use two details from the passage.

2. Who is the primary audience for this text? Identify one phrase that shows the writer is addressing that audience.

3. What local conditions make the proposed service cut especially serious from the writer's perspective?

4. How does the writer acknowledge the council's financial situation while still arguing for a different decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your school board is considering a digital-only school newspaper to save printing costs. Write a 100 to 130 word public comment from the perspective of a student with a specific role or experience. Address board members, use at least two details about the situation, and make a clear recommendation that reflects your perspective.

ANSWER KEY

The Last Ride

GRADE 11 · 11.P.ST.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that reveal the writer's point of view, circle clues about the intended audience, and number the facts that create the local context. Use your marks to see how the writer shapes the argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's role, and how does that role shape the writer's concern? Use two details from the passage.	**The writer is an Eastside High junior and a regular Route 6 rider. The writer focuses on students who stay for tutoring, rehearsal, or work and may not be able to use the bus after 7:00 p.m.**
2	Who is the primary audience for this text? Identify one phrase that shows the writer is addressing that audience.	**The primary audience is the Harbor City Council. The opening, "Members of the Harbor City Council," directly addresses them.**
3	What local conditions make the proposed service cut especially serious from the writer's perspective?	**Many Eastside households do not own a second vehicle, and some teenagers share one family car. Riders may have to miss activities or work, pay for rides, or walk on poorly lit roads.**
4	How does the writer acknowledge the council's financial situation while still arguing for a different decision?	**The writer admits that the council must close a budget gap and that not every trip is efficient. The writer then recommends keeping service until 9:30 p.m., possibly with fewer late buses or a six-month review.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Board members, I am a student photographer who covers games and concerts for the newspaper. I support posting stories online quickly, but I oppose ending the print edition completely. At last month's basketball game, grandparents crowded around the paper copies because many had not seen the website link. Printed pages also stay in the library, where students can discover reporting weeks after it appears online. The board could reduce costs by printing fewer copies and reserving them for the library, school events, and families who request them. A digital edition is useful, but a small print run keeps our reporting available to readers who are easily missed in a budget spreadsheet.

Accept responses that accurately connect the writer's identity, intended audience, and Eastside transportation conditions to the claim. For Part 3, accept varied recommendations if the response uses a defined perspective, addresses the board, and includes relevant situation details.