

Bridge Messages

Compare how writers shape one event for different readers.

11.T.C.1 “Purposes & Audiences: Analyze the impact of purpose and audience on a wide variety of texts.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases in each paragraph that reveal what the writer wants readers to do, and circle two words or details that hint at the readers the writer has in mind. In the margin, write a short label for each paragraph’s likely purpose.

One Closure, Three Texts

- ① At 6:15 a.m. Monday, the City Transportation Office posted this notice on its website and electronic road signs: “Harbor Avenue Bridge closes Tuesday, May 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for an inspection. Use River Street or the East Tunnel. Expect delays near the market. Emergency vehicles may cross when directed by crews.” The bridge carries traffic over Mill Canal. The posted notice contains four short statements. It includes the closure hours, two named detours, an expected delay near the market, and one exception for emergency vehicles. No reason for the inspection appears on the sign.
- ② Later that morning, a message with the subject line “Tuesday Bridge Inspection” reached inboxes around the Market District: “The bridge inspection will limit access from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday. Please tell delivery companies to use the East Tunnel, and consider moving large deliveries outside those hours. Post your entrance directions online before Monday evening. The association will share a map that members can add to their websites.” An attached map showed East Tunnel and River Street. The message mentions delivery companies, online posts, and websites. It does not mention emergency vehicles or inspection crews.
- ③ On Thursday, Maya Lopez published a column in the school newspaper: “A bridge closure can seem like somebody else’s problem until your bus turns down a crowded side street. Students who work at the market after school may arrive late, and families picking up groceries may face longer trips. We should check the city’s updates, but we should also ask whether the detours are safe for people walking and biking.” In her final paragraph, Lopez writes, “Send observations about dangerous crossings to the transportation office before the next council meeting.”

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What purpose is most strongly supported by the city notice’s short statements, exact hours, and route names? Use two details from the notice in your answer.

2 How does the association email’s use of “please” and “consider” affect its tone compared with “Use” and “Expect” in the city notice?

3 Which readers is Lopez trying to bring into the issue beyond drivers? Cite two details that support your answer.

4 Why might Lopez use “we” before asking readers to send observations to the transportation office?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word community alert about the same bridge closure for people who walk or bike nearby. Urge readers to report unsafe detours, and include two details chosen for that audience plus a clear action they should take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases in each paragraph that reveal what the writer wants readers to do, and circle two words or details that hint at the readers the writer has in mind. In the margin, write a short label for each paragraph's likely purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What purpose is most strongly supported by the city notice's short statements, exact hours, and route names? Use two details from the notice in your answer.	The notice aims to give immediate closure and travel directions. It provides exact closure hours and names River Street and the East Tunnel as detours.
2	How does the association email's use of "please" and "consider" affect its tone compared with "Use" and "Expect" in the city notice?	The email has a polite, advisory tone, while the city notice has a more direct, concise instructional tone.
3	Which readers is Lopez trying to bring into the issue beyond drivers? Cite two details that support your answer.	Lopez reaches students who work at the market and families buying groceries. She also raises concerns for people walking and biking.
4	Why might Lopez use "we" before asking readers to send observations to the transportation office?	"We" creates a sense of shared responsibility, making readers more likely to see the problem as theirs and respond with observations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People walking or biking near Harbor Avenue, the bridge closure begins Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Detour traffic may make River Street crossings harder to use, especially before and after school. Choose marked crossings, slow down at driveways, and tell the Transportation Office about any blocked sidewalk or unsafe signal. Include the location and time in your report. Your details can help the city adjust the detour before someone is hurt.

Accept supported interpretations of each text's purpose and audience when students cite relevant wording or details. For the open task, accept varied wording if it addresses walkers or bicyclists, includes two audience-specific details, requests reports of hazards, and stays within 65 to 85 words.