

Make It Clear

Analyze how a public comment organizes a claim, evidence, and action.

12.P.CP.2.a "Communicate clearly to present ideas, information, and texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main request, circle each piece of evidence or source information that supports it, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the claim, evidence, and action steps so you can see how the testimony guides its audience.

Model Testimony for Riverton Council

- ① Chair and council members, I am asking you to add a protected bike lane on River Street between Central Station and East High School. This short corridor connects two busy destinations, yet its painted lane disappears at two intersections. My claim is specific: build a continuous, separated lane before next school year. I will explain the safety need, show what the city's own count found, and suggest a practical first step. A clear route would help students, workers, and bus riders who finish their trips by bicycle.
- ② First, the safety problem is visible in the data. In a 2025 transportation count, the city recorded 186 people biking along this corridor during the morning and afternoon school travel periods. The same report identified the two intersections where the painted lane ends as conflict points, places where people cycling must merge with faster traffic. Those details matter because they connect the proposal to a documented condition, not just a preference. A protected lane would give riders a defined space through the intersections and make the route easier for drivers to predict.
- ③ To begin, the council could direct staff to design the lane during this fall's resurfacing project, when street markings are already scheduled for review. This step focuses spending on a planned project rather than treating safety as an afterthought. The National Association of City Transportation Officials states that protected bicycle lanes use physical separation to create a dedicated space for people biking. That description clarifies what I mean by protected, instead of leaving the term vague. Please place River Street's lane design on the September agenda, publish the proposed intersection plans, and invite students and nearby businesses to comment before a final vote.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What exact action does the speaker ask the council to take, and when does the speaker want it completed?

2 Which two details in paragraph 2 make the safety claim more convincing? Explain how they support the proposal.

3 How does the speaker use the National Association of City Transportation Officials source to make the term protected clear?

4 How does the order of the three paragraphs help the audience follow the speaker’s message?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 120-150 word public comment to the Ridgeview School Board asking for a later start time. State a clear request, use the source note and local schedule as evidence, and end with a specific next step: CDC guidance says teens need 8 to 10 hours of sleep and schools should start at 8:30 a.m. or later; Ridgeview’s first bell is 7:35 a.m., and buses arrive by 7:20 a.m.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main request, circle each piece of evidence or source information that supports it, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the claim, evidence, and action steps so you can see how the testimony guides its audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What exact action does the speaker ask the council to take, and when does the speaker want it completed?	Add a continuous, separated bike lane on River Street between Central Station and East High School before the next school year.
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 make the safety claim more convincing? Explain how they support the proposal.	The city counted 186 people biking on the corridor, and it identified two intersections where the lane ends as conflict points. These details show that many people use the route and must merge with faster traffic at unsafe locations.
3	How does the speaker use the National Association of City Transportation Officials source to make the term protected clear?	The speaker explains that protected bicycle lanes use physical separation to create a dedicated space for people biking, which defines the term precisely.
4	How does the order of the three paragraphs help the audience follow the speaker's message?	Paragraph 1 states the request and previews the argument, paragraph 2 provides evidence of the need, and paragraph 3 explains an implementation step and asks for specific council action.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the Ridgeway School Board, move the first bell to 8:30 a.m. beginning next fall. Our current 7:35 a.m. start requires many students to reach the bus by 7:20, which makes a full night of sleep difficult. The CDC advises that teens need eight to ten hours of sleep and that schools should begin at 8:30 or later. This guidance is relevant because sleep affects students before the first class begins, not only after school. Please ask transportation staff to present revised bus routes and costs at the October board meeting. Then publish two schedule options for family and student feedback before you vote. A later opening does not solve every sleep problem, but it gives the district a schedule that matches public health guidance. This change deserves a transparent plan, not a rushed decision.

Accept responses that identify the passage's claim, relevant evidence, source explanation, and organized progression from problem to action. For Part 3, accept varied positions if the response meets the word range, addresses the stated audience, uses both provided facts accurately, and ends with a specific next step.