

Purposeful Public Comment

Notice how a speaker combines story, evidence, and a practical plan for a decision-making audience.

12.P.CP.2.b "Integrate modes and genres most appropriate to purpose and audience. (I/C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the personal moment in paragraph 1, circle the evidence sentences in paragraph 2, and box the action plan in paragraph 3. In the margin, label each marked choice story, evidence, or plan.

Public Comment on Library Hours

- ① Members of the Riverbend Library Board, I am asking you to keep the downtown branch open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year. Last month, I watched a ninth grader at the library's front steps close her laptop when the doors locked at 6:00. She still had three sources to read for a research paper, but her home internet was unreliable. That moment matters because the branch is not only a building with books. For many students, it is a quiet workplace, a source of internet access, and a place to ask an adult for research help.
- ② Library sign-in records from the first four Tuesdays in April show that 42 students were using the branch between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.; on two evenings, every computer was occupied. A student council poll, completed by 186 students, found that 61 percent would use later hours at least twice a month. These numbers do not prove that every student needs the change, but they show a steady group with limited options. Extending hours on only two days would focus staff time when demand is highest. It would also give families a predictable schedule rather than asking them to guess whether a computer or librarian will be available.
- ③ I propose a six-week pilot beginning in October: keep the branch open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, then review attendance, computer use, and staff costs at the end of the trial. The library could announce the pilot through school newsletters, the city website, and signs at the branch. If evening attendance remains low, the board could end the schedule or revise it. If use is strong, the board would have evidence for continuing it. Please vote tonight to authorize the pilot and publish the results. This limited test respects the budget while treating student access as a public need, not a private inconvenience.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the personal moment in paragraph 1 help the writer persuade the library board?

2 Why does the writer use both library sign-in records and a student council poll in paragraph 2?

3 What genre or mode is most visible in paragraph 3, and why is it appropriate for the board?

4 How do the conditional statements about low attendance and strong use make the proposal more effective for this audience?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 140-180 word public comment to your principal asking for one realistic school change. Blend a brief personal moment, this planning fact, "In a survey of 150 students, 54 said they avoid biking to school because no covered bike parking is available," and a specific implementation plan that addresses one likely concern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the personal moment in paragraph 1, circle the evidence sentences in paragraph 2, and box the action plan in paragraph 3. In the margin, label each marked choice story, evidence, or plan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the personal moment in paragraph 1 help the writer persuade the library board?	It makes the effect of early closing concrete by showing a student who loses needed internet access and research time.
2	Why does the writer use both library sign-in records and a student council poll in paragraph 2?	The records show actual use of the library, while the poll shows that many students say they would use later hours. Together, they support the claim that there is demand.
3	What genre or mode is most visible in paragraph 3, and why is it appropriate for the board?	It is a proposal or action plan. It gives the board a specific pilot, a timeline, review measures, and a requested vote.
4	How do the conditional statements about low attendance and strong use make the proposal more effective for this audience?	They show that the writer has considered possible outcomes and will use evidence to decide whether to revise, end, or continue the pilot.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Chen, I ask the school to install a covered bike rack near the east entrance. On a rainy morning in April, I arrived with a soaked backpack and found several bikes locked to the fence, where puddles had gathered around their wheels. Students should not have to choose between protecting their belongings and getting to class on time. The need reaches beyond one bad morning. In a survey of 150 students, 54 said they avoid biking to school because no covered bike parking is available. A roofed rack could make biking a more practical option and reduce crowding in the student drop-off lane. To control costs, begin with one twelve-bike rack beside the east entrance, where existing pavement can support it. Ask the facilities team for two price quotes, and review use after one semester. Some may worry that the rack will be empty in winter, but the review will show whether expansion is justified. Please include the pilot rack in next year's facilities budget.

Accept answers that identify how the writer selects story, evidence, and a proposal to suit a library board considering a decision. For the open task, look for a clear decision-maker audience, purposeful integration of the required modes, and a feasible response to a concern.