# Make the Case

Read how a writer uses evidence and strategy to influence a public decision.

**12.P.EICC.2.e** "Consume and produce texts in order to solve problems or influence decisions. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the action the writer wants, circle each piece of evidence used to support it, and write 1 next to the concern the writer answers. These marks show how the letter is designed to influence a decision.

### A Later Bus for Students

1. I ask the River City Transit Board to add one Route 8 trip leaving Central Station at 6:15 p.m. on school nights. The current final bus leaves at 5:35, although many students finish athletics, tutoring, or part-time work later. A later trip would give riders a safe, predictable way home. It would also reduce the need for costly rideshares or last-minute rides from family members. This small schedule change addresses a clear gap between students' responsibilities and the service now available for them.

2. Evidence suggests that the need is regular, not occasional. In a March survey of 126 Eastview students who use Route 8, 74 said they had missed the last bus at least once this semester because of an after-school commitment. The district keeps its library open until 6:00 p.m. three days each week, and several clubs meet after classes. Adding a single trip would serve students already gathered near Central Station, where Route 8 begins. The board could review ridership after a three-month trial before deciding whether to continue the change.

3. One concern is that an additional trip costs money and may carry few passengers at first. A trial limits that risk: the board can assign the trip to school nights only, record boardings, and end it if use remains low. The benefit is not merely convenience. Students who cannot arrange a ride may have to leave tutoring, work, or activities early, which limits opportunities that schools encourage. Please place the 6:15 Route 8 trial on the April agenda and invite student riders to comment before the vote.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What decision does the writer want the Transit Board to make, and who is the intended audience?

2. Which detail best shows that the transportation problem affects many students rather than only one person? Explain how it supports the proposal.

3. How does the proposed three-month trial make the request more persuasive to a decision maker?

4. How does the writer answer the concern about cost while still urging the board to act?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100-130-word email to your principal proposing a decision that would solve a school problem. State the decision you want, use two concrete pieces of evidence, address one reasonable concern, and end with a specific action you want the principal to take.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Make the Case

**GRADE 12 · 12.P.EICC.2.e**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the action the writer wants, circle each piece of evidence used to support it, and write 1 next to the concern the writer answers. These marks show how the letter is designed to influence a decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What decision does the writer want the Transit Board to make, and who is the intended audience? | **The writer wants the River City Transit Board to add a 6:15 p.m. Route 8 trip on school nights. The intended audience is the River City Transit Board.** |
| 2 | Which detail best shows that the transportation problem affects many students rather than only one person? Explain how it supports the proposal. | **The March survey found that 74 of 126 Route 8 users had missed the last bus at least once because of an after-school commitment. This shows that the need affects many student riders.** |
| 3 | How does the proposed three-month trial make the request more persuasive to a decision maker? | **It lowers the financial risk because the board can track ridership and end the added trip if use remains low.** |
| 4 | How does the writer answer the concern about cost while still urging the board to act? | **The writer proposes a school-night-only trial, recording boardings and ending the trip if ridership is low, then asks the board to place the trial on the April agenda.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Subject: Add a Water Refill Station Near the Gym I ask the school to install a water refill station in the hallway outside the gym before winter sports begin. During the last two weeks, I counted 31 students leaving practice to use the only nearby fountain, and several arrived late to study hall. Coaches also schedule three teams in the gym area most afternoons, so the demand is predictable. A new station would shorten lines and help students refill reusable bottles instead of buying plastic drinks. The main concern is cost. The school could request a price estimate, use facilities funds, and review whether the station reduces hallway traffic. Please add this proposal to the next school improvement meeting.

Accept responses that accurately identify the writer's request, evidence, audience, and response to a concern. For Part 3, accept varied school issues when the response meets the word count and includes a clear decision, two relevant pieces of evidence, a concern with a response, and a specific requested action.