

Reading the Room

How language shifts for readers and goals.

12.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 In each paragraph, underline two details that signal the intended readers and circle two choices that reveal what the writer wants readers to know, think, or do.

Three Messages by the Water

- ① Alert Test Notice: On Tuesday, crews will test the new floodgate alarms in waterfront apartment buildings at 10:00 a.m. The siren will sound for three minutes, followed by a recorded message in English and Spanish. No evacuation is needed. If you use hearing equipment that connects to building alerts, ask your property manager by Monday for a free vibration receiver. Keep the blue emergency card posted near your door. Questions about a missed alert may be reported to the city hotline, 555-0148, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ② From The Harbor High Current: Last fall, I watched our cross-country team run past a shoreline strewn with plastic wrappers after a storm. That view should embarrass us. The city plans to replace part of the parking lot beside the track, and it can choose pavement or a planted rain garden. A rain garden would catch runoff before it reaches the bay, create a living laboratory for science classes, and give us a trail worth showing visiting teams. Bring a signed postcard to Friday's game, or submit a comment through the student council form. Silence will make the cheapest option look acceptable.
- ③ Excerpt from a Capital Planning Brief: Option A adds a concrete wall along the pier for an estimated \$2.4 million. It would reduce waves at the loading dock, but water would still flow around both ends during a severe storm. Option B restores 1.8 acres of marsh and raises the dock entrance for an estimated \$2.7 million. Federal habitat grants could offset part of that cost. The marsh would absorb wave energy, provide nursery habitat for fish, and require periodic monitoring rather than major structural repairs. Approve preliminary design funds for Option B this quarter so grant applications can be filed before the December deadline.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who are the most likely readers of paragraph 1? Cite two details that support your inference.

2 How does paragraph 2 try to influence its readers? Explain how one language choice helps achieve that goal.

3 Compare paragraphs 1 and 3. Identify one difference in their language or organization, then explain how that difference fits each text's likely readers.

4 Which paragraph is most likely written for readers who control public spending? Cite two details that support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a 70-90-word message about a local school issue for one specific audience. Then write exactly two sentences explaining how two choices in your message fit that audience and your purpose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline two details that signal the intended readers and circle two choices that reveal what the writer wants readers to know, think, or do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who are the most likely readers of paragraph 1? Cite two details that support your inference.	People who live in the waterfront apartment buildings. Supporting details include references to a property manager, a card near the reader's door, and building-connected hearing equipment.
2	How does paragraph 2 try to influence its readers? Explain how one language choice helps achieve that goal.	It urges readers to support the rain garden and submit comments. The first-person shoreline image, the direct call to bring a postcard or comment, and the warning about silence create pressure to act.
3	Compare paragraphs 1 and 3. Identify one difference in their language or organization, then explain how that difference fits each text's likely readers.	Paragraph 1 uses brief directions, times, and contact information for people who need to respond to an alarm test. Paragraph 3 uses cost estimates, options, benefits, and a deadline for people who can evaluate and approve a project.
4	Which paragraph is most likely written for readers who control public spending? Cite two details that support your answer.	Paragraph 3. It includes dollar estimates, possible federal grants, and a request to approve preliminary design funds before a grant deadline.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the campus facilities committee, the east gym has one drinking fountain for athletes, coaches, and spectators. During afternoon practices, students wait in line or buy disposable bottles. Install a bottle-filling station beside the gym entrance before winter sports begin. The location already has plumbing, and the station would reduce hallway congestion during passing periods. A visible counter showing bottles saved each month could also support the school's waste-reduction goal. I addressed the facilities committee and included plumbing and congestion details because that group can weigh costs and building use. The request and timetable are intended to secure installation before a busy sports season.

Accept reasonable inferences when students cite specific wording or structural choices from the passage. For the open task, look for a distinct audience, a purposeful message, and two accurate explanations connecting language choices to audience and purpose.