# Message Match

Notice how a situation changes what an author says and how the author says it.

**4.P.ST.1.b** "Consider how context impacts the purposes of the author and the audience. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline words that show who each message is for. Circle details that show what the author wants that audience to know or do.

### Messages About a Muddy Trail

1. At Pine Creek Park, a wet trail closed after heavy rain. The park ranger needed to share the news quickly. Near the trail entrance, she posted a large sign: "Trail Closed. Mud can cause slips." Hikers and families would see it before they entered. The sign used few words because people were already outside and needed a fast warning.

2. That evening, the ranger wrote an email to volunteers who care for the park. She explained that rainwater had washed soil across the path and asked them to bring shovels on Saturday. The email included the meeting time, tool list, and a contact number. Volunteers needed these details because they were planning work, not simply choosing another place to walk.

3. On Monday, the local newspaper printed a short story about the closure. Its readers included people who had not visited the park. The reporter described the rain, the muddy trail, and the volunteers' work. She also told when the trail would reopen if it dried. The story's purpose was to inform the wider community about what happened and why.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who was the audience for the sign at the trail entrance? Which detail in the paragraph shows this?

2. Why did the ranger use few words on the sign?

3. How did the email's audience affect the details the ranger included?

4. How was the newspaper story's purpose different from the email's purpose?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a change at school, such as a room closing or an event moving. Write one sentence for students and one sentence for adult volunteers, using details that fit each audience and your purpose.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Message Match

**GRADE 4 · 4.P.ST.1.b**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show who each message is for. Circle details that show what the author wants that audience to know or do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Who was the audience for the sign at the trail entrance? Which detail in the paragraph shows this? | **The audience was hikers and families. The sign was near the trail entrance, where they would see it before entering.** |
| 2 | Why did the ranger use few words on the sign? | **People were already outside and needed a fast warning before entering the muddy trail.** |
| 3 | How did the email's audience affect the details the ranger included? | **Because volunteers were planning work, the email included a meeting time, tool list, contact number, and a request to bring shovels.** |
| 4 | How was the newspaper story's purpose different from the email's purpose? | **The newspaper story informed the wider community about the closure and its cause. The email asked park volunteers to help with trail work.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students: The art room is closed today because a pipe is being fixed, so use Room 12 for art. Volunteers: Please meet at 8:00 a.m. in Room 12 to help move art supplies while the pipe is repaired.

Accept answers that identify an audience and a purpose for each message and include details suited to that group. Student messages may describe any realistic school change.