A Letter's Lens

See how audience and context shape a request.

5.P.ST.2.b "Draw from knowledge of author, audience, and context to discern and establish a clear point of view or unique perspective when interpreting and constructing texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle clues that show who wrote the letter and who will read it. Underline details about the situation, then number two sentences that show Maya's point of view.

A Place to Wait

1. Dear School Board Members, Our school library stays open for twenty minutes after dismissal, but many students wait nearly an hour for late buses. I am writing as a fifth grader who rides Bus 12. On rainy days, I sit in the crowded hallway with other riders, unable to finish homework or choose a book. The library would give us a quiet, useful place to wait.

2. Next Tuesday, the school board will discuss next year's budget. Keeping the library open until the last bus leaves would require an adult staff member, so the plan costs money. Still, it could help bus riders read, study, and stay safe indoors. Families and teachers may also appreciate knowing where children are during the wait.

3. I know the board must choose among many needs, including classroom supplies and building repairs. My view is that a longer library schedule is a wise use of school funds because it supports students who cannot leave right away. Please consider this idea at Tuesday's meeting. Thank you for listening to a student bus rider. Sincerely, Maya Chen.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who wrote this letter, and who is the main audience? Use one clue from the letter to support your answer.

2. What upcoming event gives the letter its context? How does that event shape Maya's request?

3. What is Maya's point of view about keeping the library open later? Give one reason she gives for this view.

4. How does Maya show that she understands the school board's responsibilities? Why might this make her message stronger for that audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school issue different from library hours. Write exactly 3 sentences to a specific school audience. Make the audience and context clear, state your point of view, and include one detail that fits that audience.

ANSWER KEY

A Letter's Lens

GRADE 5 · 5.P.ST.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle clues that show who wrote the letter and who will read it. Underline details about the situation, then number two sentences that show Maya's point of view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who wrote this letter, and who is the main audience? Use one clue from the letter to support your answer.	**Maya Chen, a fifth-grade bus rider, wrote the letter for the school board. The greeting says, "Dear School Board Members," and Maya signs the letter.**
2	What upcoming event gives the letter its context? How does that event shape Maya's request?	**The school board will discuss next year's budget on Tuesday. Maya asks the board to use funds to keep the library open longer.**
3	What is Maya's point of view about keeping the library open later? Give one reason she gives for this view.	**Maya believes longer library hours are a wise use of school funds. She says bus riders could read, study, and wait safely indoors.**
4	How does Maya show that she understands the school board's responsibilities? Why might this make her message stronger for that audience?	**She says the board must choose among needs such as classroom supplies and building repairs. This shows she understands the board must make budget choices, so her request sounds thoughtful.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Student Council, you are choosing projects for next month's service day. I think our school should plant native flowers beside the playground because they would give bees food and make the area brighter. Please choose this project so students can help care for the garden during recess.

Accept answers that correctly identify Maya as a bus-riding student, the school board as the audience, the budget meeting as context, and her support for longer library hours. For the writing task, accept any exactly three-sentence response with a clear audience, context, viewpoint, and fitting supporting detail.