From Scraps to Soil

See how one message uses story, facts, and requests for different readers.

6.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 story details, circle the facts or measurements, and write P beside words for the principal and S beside words for students to show how the proposal reaches each audience.

Proposal: Turn Scraps Into a Garden

1. At 11:45 on Tuesday, the cafeteria line curled past the doors. Maya watched a student toss an unopened apple into a bin and wondered whether food scraps could grow something useful. That afternoon, Maya's eco-club wrote a proposal for a small school garden. They began with this scene so the principal and student council could picture food waste before considering a solution. Their purpose was not simply to tell a story. They wanted school leaders to approve a garden beside the playground.

2. Next, the proposal gave information that could help leaders judge the plan. It explained that bacteria, fungi, and other decomposers break down fruit peels, leaves, and other organic material. The finished compost can add nutrients to soil and help it hold water. A small chart compared three garden beds. Each bed would measure four feet by eight feet, and the club estimated that eight volunteers could plant and water them during weekly meetings. These facts and measurements made the idea seem possible, not imaginary.

3. Finally, the proposal ended with a direct request. "Please approve the garden site by Friday," it said, using polite, formal language for the principal. A separate box spoke to students: "Bring clean fruit and vegetable scraps on Thursdays, then sign up to help." This friendly invitation gave classmates a clear role. By combining a short story, scientific explanation, measurements, and requests, the eco-club shaped one message for two audiences. The proposal informed readers, persuaded decision makers, and invited students to participate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the proposal begin with Maya seeing an apple tossed into a bin?

2. What two kinds of information in paragraph 2 make the garden plan seem possible?

3. How is the request to the principal different from the message to students?

4. Why does the eco-club combine a story, scientific explanation, measurements, and requests in one proposal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80-100-word book-swap message for your principal and classmates. Blend a brief scene, two specific event details, a formal request to the principal, and a friendly call to action for students.

ANSWER KEY

From Scraps to Soil

GRADE 6 · 6.P.CP.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the story details, circle the facts or measurements, and write P beside words for the principal and S beside words for students to show how the proposal reaches each audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the proposal begin with Maya seeing an apple tossed into a bin?	**The scene helps the principal and student council picture the food-waste problem before they consider the garden solution.**
2	What two kinds of information in paragraph 2 make the garden plan seem possible?	**It explains how decomposers turn organic material into compost, and it gives measurements for the beds plus an estimate of eight volunteers.**
3	How is the request to the principal different from the message to students?	**The principal receives a polite, formal request to approve the site by Friday. Students receive a friendly invitation to bring scraps and volunteer.**
4	Why does the eco-club combine a story, scientific explanation, measurements, and requests in one proposal?	**The different parts inform readers, persuade decision makers, and invite students to participate.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Yesterday, Jamal carried three finished novels to the library return shelf and saw that several classmates were looking for their next book. Our Book Swap would give students a free way to trade books they already own. The library has offered the tables near the windows for the event, which will happen during lunch on October 14. Principal Rivera, please approve the lunch-time setup. Classmates, bring one gently used book and choose another to read. Sign up with the library club by October 10.

Accept answers that identify how the passage changes its mode and language for different purposes and audiences. For the open task, check for 80-100 words, a scene, two event details, a formal principal request, and a student-directed invitation.