Words That Move

Analyze how sentence choices shape a community message.

7.P.AC.1.c "Explain, analyze, and evaluate how the author's use of sentence structure and syntax affects the target audience and supports the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number each sentence. Circle the two shortest sentences, then underline one longer sentence that gives a reason or result; these choices show how the author guides residents toward the goal.

A Garden for Maple Street

1 On Saturday morning, the empty lot beside Maple Street will become a neighborhood garden. Volunteers will pull weeds, build raised beds, and plant tomatoes, beans, and herbs. The project needs more than shovels. It needs neighbors. Because the garden will sit beside the bus stop, families walking home can pick up fresh food and see how it grows. A garden changes a corner, but it can also change who feels welcome there every day.

2 Some people may wonder whether a small garden can matter when grocery stores are only a few blocks away. Yet the nearest store is difficult to reach for people who do not have a car, especially when they carry bags or travel with young children. The garden will not solve every food problem. Still, it will offer free herbs and vegetables during the growing season. It will also give students a place to learn which insects help plants make fruit.

3 Join us at the lot on April 12, from 9:00 to noon, for the first workday. Bring gloves if you have them, but come even if you do not. Tools will be available. So will water. Sign up at the library desk or use the QR code on this flyer. When many hands share the work, the garden can open sooner, and its first harvest can reach more tables. Make room for something that can feed the block.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the target audience for this message? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

2. How do the two shortest sentences affect the reader? Explain what the author emphasizes by using very short sentences.

3. How does the longer sentence near the end that begins with "When" support the author's purpose?

4. In paragraph 2, the author first admits that the garden has a limit, then follows with sentences about its benefits. How does this structure affect readers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence invitation for a community project. Include one sentence with four words or fewer and one sentence that begins with Because, When, or Although; use the sentence choices to persuade your audience to take part.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 7 · 7.P.AC.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number each sentence. Circle the two shortest sentences, then underline one longer sentence that gives a reason or result; these choices show how the author guides residents toward the goal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the target audience for this message? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	**The target audience is neighborhood residents, especially nearby families and people who can volunteer. Details include the bus stop and the invitation to join the April 12 workday.**
2	How do the two shortest sentences affect the reader? Explain what the author emphasizes by using very short sentences.	**They create pauses and add emphasis. The author highlights the need for community members and reassures readers that basic supplies will be provided.**
3	How does the longer sentence near the end that begins with "When" support the author's purpose?	**It connects shared work to quick results and more food for more people. This encourages residents to volunteer by showing the benefit of working together.**
4	In paragraph 2, the author first admits that the garden has a limit, then follows with sentences about its benefits. How does this structure affect readers?	**Admitting the limit makes the author sound honest and reasonable. The benefits that follow help readers see that the garden is still worthwhile.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Families on Pine Street, help plant our pocket park on May 3. Bring a friend. Because the park is beside the playground, children can watch seeds become flowers. Your hour of work can make the block cooler and more welcoming.

Accept responses that identify a reasonable audience and explain how sentence length, order, or clause structure affects that audience. For Part 3, accept varied topics if the response has exactly four sentences, includes both required structures, and clearly persuades an audience.