Words That Move

Study how a writer guides an audience toward a decision.

7.P.AC.2.b "Craft words and phrases in order to influence the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions of the target audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases meant to influence the school board, then circle the action the writer wants the board to take.

A Cooler Bus Loop

1. Members of the Riverton School Board, picture students stepping off buses into a parking lot that feels like a skillet by late afternoon. Our bus loop has little shade, so students wait in direct sun during hot months. This is not only uncomfortable. Heat can cause dizziness, headaches, and trouble concentrating. I ask the board to fund eight native shade trees along the sidewalk before next summer. A cooler, safer wait should be part of every student's school day.

2. Native trees are a practical choice because they are adapted to local conditions and can support insects and birds. Their leaves can cool shaded ground and make a sidewalk more comfortable to use. Planting trees also teaches care for a shared space. Would families rather see students squeezed beside a hot wall, or resting beneath growing branches? The board can turn a bare route into a welcoming entrance. Please include trees in the spring facilities budget, and invite the city arborist to recommend suitable species.

3. Some may worry that trees cost money and need care. Yet waiting has a cost too, because another hot season leaves students without relief. The project can begin with eight trees, mulch, and protective guards, then expand later if needed. Local volunteers could help water new trees during dry weeks, while district staff manage long-term care. Board members, choose a solution that protects students now and improves the campus for years. Approve the tree plan at your next meeting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What decision does the writer want the school board to make?

2. Which comparison in paragraph 1 is designed to make the board feel the heat students face? Explain its effect.

3. Copy the question the writer asks in paragraph 2. How is this question meant to influence the board?

4. How does paragraph 3 respond to a concern about cost and care? Give two details that make the plan seem manageable.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences, 55 to 75 words, to your principal asking for a refill station near the gym. Include a vivid comparison, one question, and a clear action you want the principal to take.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 7 · 7.P.AC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases meant to influence the school board, then circle the action the writer wants the board to take. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What decision does the writer want the school board to make?	**Fund and approve a plan to plant eight native shade trees along the bus-loop sidewalk before next summer.**
2	Which comparison in paragraph 1 is designed to make the board feel the heat students face? Explain its effect.	**"Feels like a skillet" compares the parking lot to a very hot cooking pan, making the waiting area seem painfully hot.**
3	Copy the question the writer asks in paragraph 2. How is this question meant to influence the board?	**"Would families rather see students squeezed beside a hot wall, or resting beneath growing branches?" It pushes the board to prefer the shaded, welcoming option.**
4	How does paragraph 3 respond to a concern about cost and care? Give two details that make the plan seem manageable.	**It says waiting also has a cost, and it proposes starting with eight trees and expanding later. It also suggests volunteers could water new trees while district staff handle long-term care.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Chen, after practice, the water fountain line snakes across the hallway like a slow-moving parade. Should athletes have to miss the start of class just to get a drink? Please add a refill station near the gym this fall, so students can fill bottles quickly, stay hydrated, and return to learning on time each day.

Accept answers that accurately identify how specific wording is meant to influence the school board's thoughts or decision. For Part 3, accept varied persuasive choices if the response has exactly three sentences, contains 55 to 75 words, and includes all required elements.