Make the Crossing

Analyze how a proposal uses evidence to influence a decision.

7.P.EICC.2.e "Consume and produce texts in order to solve problems or influence decisions. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem and proposed solution, circle each piece of evidence or response to a concern, and number the actions the writer asks the board to take. These marks show how the writer tries to influence the board's decision.

Letter to the School Board

1 Dear School Board Members, I am writing to ask you to approve a painted crosswalk and two crossing signs at the entrance to Lincoln Middle School. Each morning, students walk from the bus stop across Oak Street, where cars turn into the parking lot. There is no marked place for people to cross. Last Tuesday, I watched several students wait while cars moved through the entrance. A clear crossing area would help drivers notice students and help students choose a safer route.

2 Some people may worry that a crosswalk would slow traffic during drop-off. However, the school could place the crosswalk close to the existing stop sign, where drivers already slow down. The National Association of City Transportation Officials explains that marked crosswalks can make people crossing more visible to drivers, especially when signs are used. Our school also has a student safety team that could remind walkers to use the crossing. These steps would address traffic concerns while giving families a clearer, safer plan for arrival.

3 I propose that the board discuss this idea at its October meeting and ask the transportation department for a cost estimate. The project does not need to be large. Paint, signs, and a short safety lesson could improve one busy spot before winter weather makes walking harder. Please consider this request because it responds to a daily problem with a practical solution. If the board approves the plan, students, drivers, and families will know where to look and where to cross.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. What problem does the writer use to support the request?

3. What concern does the writer acknowledge, and what response does the writer give?

4. How does the reference to the National Association of City Transportation Officials strengthen the writer's proposal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your school library closes at 4:00 p.m., but late buses leave at 4:45 p.m. Write a 5-sentence email to the principal asking for a decision about this problem. State your request, use two details from the situation, address one possible concern, and suggest a practical solution.

ANSWER KEY

Make the Crossing

GRADE 7 · 7.P.EICC.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem and proposed solution, circle each piece of evidence or response to a concern, and number the actions the writer asks the board to take. These marks show how the writer tries to influence the board's decision. 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?	**Approve a painted crosswalk and two crossing signs at the entrance to Lincoln Middle School.**
2	What problem does the writer use to support the request?	**Students cross Oak Street near the parking-lot entrance, but there is no marked place to cross while cars are turning.**
3	What concern does the writer acknowledge, and what response does the writer give?	**The writer acknowledges that a crosswalk might slow drop-off traffic and says it could be placed near the existing stop sign, where drivers already slow down.**
4	How does the reference to the National Association of City Transportation Officials strengthen the writer's proposal?	**It provides expert support for the idea that marked crosswalks and signs can make people crossing more visible to drivers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Chen, I ask that the library stay open until 4:45 on days when late buses run. Students who ride those buses have 45 minutes to wait after the library closes. Keeping the library open would give us a quiet, supervised place to finish homework. You may be concerned about staffing, but one rotating teacher or trained volunteer could supervise the room. Please try this schedule for one month and ask students and staff whether it works.

Accept answers that identify the proposal, relevant evidence, a counterclaim and response, and requested actions using accurate details from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied reasonable requests if the response has exactly five sentences and includes all required elements.