Garden Vote Voices

Use author, audience, and context to interpret a column.

7.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 Underline words that reveal the writer's view of the garden, and circle details that show the writer's audience or situation, so you can see why the writer takes that view.

More Than Soil

1. When our school announced plans to replace the unused east lawn with a community garden, some students pictured extra chores. I pictured tomatoes, pollinators, and a place where science lessons could leave the classroom. As a seventh grader who eats lunch near that patch of grass, I have watched it collect litter and puddles. The garden proposal will not solve every campus problem, but it could turn a forgotten corner into a shared resource for everyone.

2. This column appears in the student newspaper one week before the school board votes on the project. My readers are classmates who may use the garden, so they deserve details, not slogans. The plan would use a portion of the lawn, include raised beds, and rely on volunteers from the environmental club and a nearby food bank. It would also cost money for soil, tools, and water access. Those limits matter, and supporters should explain how they will meet them.

3. Still, I favor moving ahead. A garden can give students a reason to care for a space they pass each day, and it can provide herbs or vegetables for the cafeteria if the harvest succeeds. Before the vote, the board should ask for a schedule, a budget, and adult supervision. Asking these questions is not opposition. It is the best way to make a useful idea last beyond its exciting first week for future students.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What role does the author likely have at the school? Cite one phrase that supports your answer.

2. Who is the intended audience for this column? Give two details that reveal the audience.

3. What event creates the immediate context for the column, and how soon will it happen?

4. State the author's point of view about the garden. Then name two details that show the author is considering the audience and context.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a student columnist writing for classmates one week before the principal makes a decision about a school improvement. Write a 75 to 90 word column that clearly supports or questions the change, using details that reveal your student role, your classmate audience, and the upcoming decision.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Vote Voices

GRADE 7 · 7.P.ST.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that reveal the writer's view of the garden, and circle details that show the writer's audience or situation, so you can see why the writer takes that view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What role does the author likely have at the school? Cite one phrase that supports your answer.	**The author is a seventh grade student. The author says, "As a seventh grader who eats lunch near that patch of grass."**
2	Who is the intended audience for this column? Give two details that reveal the audience.	**The audience is the author's classmates. The column is in the student newspaper, and the author says the readers are classmates who may use the garden.**
3	What event creates the immediate context for the column, and how soon will it happen?	**The school board will vote on the garden project, and the vote is one week away.**
4	State the author's point of view about the garden. Then name two details that show the author is considering the audience and context.	**The author supports the garden but wants a practical plan. The author mentions costs for supplies and water, and asks for a schedule, budget, and adult supervision before the board vote.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Classmates, the principal will decide next Friday whether to open the library thirty minutes before school. As a student who waits outside in cold weather, I support the change. Early access would give bus riders a quiet place to read, finish homework, or use computers. The library would need an adult supervisor, so the plan should include a staff schedule. This small change would help students start the day prepared instead of standing in the hallway.

Accept reasonable interpretations that use evidence from the passage about the author, audience, and school board vote. For the writing task, accept any clear position that fits the student columnist, classmate audience, decision context, and 75 to 90 word requirement.