Shade With Purpose

Analyze how a public message persuades its intended audience.

8.P.AC.1.a "Identify, apply, and analyze the literary, expository, and opinion (grades K-5) or rhetorical (grades 6-12) elements in texts, explaining or evaluating how specific elements affect the target audience and support the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that appeal to riders' experiences, circle two facts or practical reasons, and number the two direct requests to council members. These rhetorical choices work together to persuade the audience.

A Safer Wait for the Bus

1 Every afternoon, students at Riverton Middle wait for buses beside a wide strip of pavement with no shade. By 3:30, the metal bench is hot enough to avoid, and the air above the road seems to shimmer. Some students stand in direct sun for twenty minutes or more. This is not simply uncomfortable. On very hot days, heat can cause dizziness, headaches, and dehydration. Our town can make this daily trip safer by adding shade structures at the busiest bus stops.

2 Shade is a practical solution, not a luxury. The National Weather Service advises people to seek shade during hot weather because shade lowers exposure to direct sunlight. A simple roof can also protect riders during rain. Installing structures first at stops used by the most students would focus money where it helps most. Imagine arriving home able to start homework, instead of recovering from a pounding headache. Why should a ride to school begin with a health risk?

3 Council members, please place shade structures at the three busiest Riverton bus stops before next summer. This change would protect young riders each week while giving families a dry place to wait in rain. We plan sidewalks and crossings to make travel safer. We should plan shade for the same reason. A small roof cannot solve every heat problem, but it can change a dangerous wait into a safer one. Fund these structures in the next town budget.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the primary target audience of this message? Use two words or phrases from the passage to support your answer.

2. Identify one emotional appeal in the passage. Explain how it could affect the target audience.

3. Which sentence uses an expert source as evidence? Explain how this evidence supports the writer's purpose.

4. The passage repeats the idea of safety. How does this repeated idea support the writer's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to a school or community decision maker about one improvement you want. Include one concrete image, one logical reason, and one direct call to action.

ANSWER KEY

Shade With Purpose

GRADE 8 · 8.P.AC.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that appeal to riders' experiences, circle two facts or practical reasons, and number the two direct requests to council members. These rhetorical choices work together to persuade the audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the primary target audience of this message? Use two words or phrases from the passage to support your answer.	**The primary audience is Riverton's council members. The passage directly says "Council members" and asks them to "Fund these structures in the next town budget."**
2	Identify one emotional appeal in the passage. Explain how it could affect the target audience.	**The image of students standing in direct sun beside a hot bench, or arriving home with a pounding headache, may make council members feel concern for students and see the problem as urgent.**
3	Which sentence uses an expert source as evidence? Explain how this evidence supports the writer's purpose.	**"The National Weather Service advises people to seek shade during hot weather because shade lowers exposure to direct sunlight." This expert source makes the safety argument more credible and supports the request for shade structures.**
4	The passage repeats the idea of safety. How does this repeated idea support the writer's purpose?	**Repeating words such as "safer," "health risk," and "dangerous" frames shade structures as a safety need, not an extra convenience. This supports the purpose of persuading the council to fund them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Ortiz, please add a water refill station near the gym. After practice, a line of thirsty students forms at the single fountain, and refill stations can reduce the need for disposable plastic bottles. Put this project in next year's facilities plan so athletes can refill bottles quickly.

For the open response, look for three sentences addressed to a decision maker, a concrete image, a logical reason, and a clear call to action.