Shelter the Stop

Notice how one letter combines evidence, imagery, and persuasive choices.

8.P.AC.2.a "Integrate literary, expository, and opinion (grades K-5) or rhetorical (grades 6-12) elements to appeal to target audiences and achieve specific purposes. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that identify the audience, circle two facts or concrete details, and number two phrases that make the reader feel or act. These choices work together to support the writer's request.

Letter for Safer Bus Stops

(1) Dear Riverton City Council, I am writing to ask you to add covered shelters at the three busiest bus stops near Riverton Middle School. Each afternoon, students wait beside Maple Avenue while rain soaks backpacks or summer heat beats down on the sidewalk. A shelter would be more than a roof. It would be a small, dependable place where riders could stand safely, read a message from home, and begin the trip home with dignity.

(2) According to the Riverton Transit Department's 2024 rider count, about 180 students board buses at these stops on a typical school day. Yet none has a bench or a covered waiting area. When students crowd under a store awning across the street, drivers have less room to see pedestrians. Installing three basic shelters would cost far less than rebuilding a damaged sidewalk after an accident. This practical step would support students, families, and bus drivers.

(3) Please include $18,000 for these shelters in next year's capital budget, and ask transit staff to choose locations with clear sight lines and wheelchair access. Council members, you regularly make choices that shape ordinary days for young residents. Picture a sixth grader gripping a wet science project while cars spray water from the road. A shelter cannot solve every problem, but it can show that Riverton plans for the people who rely on its buses. Thank you for considering this request.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the writer's target audience, and what action does the writer want that audience to take?

2. What expository detail gives evidence that many students would use the shelters? Explain how it supports the request.

3. What vivid image does the writer use near the end of the letter? What concern does this image help the council picture?

4. How does the sentence, "A shelter cannot solve every problem," make the argument more persuasive?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 120 word paragraph to a school leader asking for one practical improvement at your school. Name your audience and request, include one concrete fact, one vivid image or comparison, and one rhetorical choice such as direct address, a question, or a concession.

ANSWER KEY

Shelter the Stop

GRADE 8 · 8.P.AC.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that identify the audience, circle two facts or concrete details, and number two phrases that make the reader feel or act. These choices work together to support the writer's request. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the writer's target audience, and what action does the writer want that audience to take?	**The target audience is the Riverton City Council. The writer wants the council to fund and add three covered bus shelters near the middle school.**
2	What expository detail gives evidence that many students would use the shelters? Explain how it supports the request.	**The 2024 rider count says about 180 students board buses at the stops on a typical school day. It shows that many students would benefit from shelters.**
3	What vivid image does the writer use near the end of the letter? What concern does this image help the council picture?	**The writer asks the council to picture a sixth grader gripping a wet science project while cars spray water from the road. It helps the council picture students' discomfort and safety concerns in bad weather.**
4	How does the sentence, "A shelter cannot solve every problem," make the argument more persuasive?	**It admits that shelters have limits, then explains their real benefit. This makes the writer sound reasonable and practical.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Lee, please add two water bottle filling stations near the gym. During a five-day count, our student council saw 146 students wait at the single fountain between lunch periods. The line curled past the trophy case like a slow-moving rope, and some students left without a drink. You can help students return to class on time by placing one station on each side of the gym. Although new stations cost money, they reduce plastic-bottle waste and serve athletes, visitors, and classes every day. Will you include them in next year's facilities plan?

Accept evidence-based explanations that connect the letter's factual details, imagery, and rhetorical choices to the City Council and the request for shelters. For the writing task, accept varied school improvements if the response addresses a specific audience and purpose and includes all required elements.