Words That Move

Analyze how a proposal guides a decision.

8.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 the words or phrases that make the proposal sound valuable or practical. Circle the one sentence that directly asks the Student Council to act, and number the question that invites the council to imagine a response.

A Refill Station Proposal

1. Dear Student Council, every day, students carry disposable bottles from the cafeteria, practice fields, and after-school clubs. Many bottles are used once, then dropped into bins or left near lockers. A refill station beside the cafeteria would give students a simple choice: fill a reusable bottle instead of buying another drink. This proposal is not about blaming anyone. It is about making the responsible choice the easy choice during a busy school day for everyone.

2. Consider the morning line at the vending machine. When a student realizes a water bottle is empty, a nearby fountain with a bottle-filling spout can save time and reduce waste. The station could also display a counter showing how many refills students have made. Would students be more likely to bring reusable bottles if they could see their shared progress? That visible number could turn a private habit into a schoolwide goal worth pursuing together.

3. Please approve one refill station for a four-week trial near the cafeteria. The trial would let the council collect information before making a larger commitment. Students could report whether the location is convenient, and custodians could note whether fewer bottles appear in nearby trash cans. If the results show that the station is useful, the council would have evidence for adding more later. A small trial offers a practical first step and a fair way to judge the idea.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. Quote one phrase that makes the refill station seem valuable or practical. How might that phrase influence the council?

3. How does the question about students seeing shared progress influence the council's thinking?

4. Why does the writer recommend a four-week trial instead of asking for several stations right away?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences, 45 to 60 words, to a school decision-maker recommending one campus improvement. Include one direct request, one phrase that makes your idea sound valuable or practical, one question, and a way to gather evidence before making a larger commitment.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 8 · 8.P.AC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words or phrases that make the proposal sound valuable or practical. Circle the one sentence that directly asks the Student Council to act, and number the question that invites the council to imagine a response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the target audience, and what action does the writer want that audience to take?	**The target audience is the Student Council. The writer wants it to approve one refill station for a four-week trial near the cafeteria.**
2	Quote one phrase that makes the refill station seem valuable or practical. How might that phrase influence the council?	**Possible answer: "making the responsible choice the easy choice." It may lead the council to see the station as a convenient, responsible improvement.**
3	How does the question about students seeing shared progress influence the council's thinking?	**It invites the council to imagine that a visible refill count could motivate students to use reusable bottles and work toward a shared goal.**
4	Why does the writer recommend a four-week trial instead of asking for several stations right away?	**A trial lets the council collect information and judge whether the station is useful before making a larger commitment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Please approve a two-week trial of a quiet study table in the library after lunch. This simple space would make focused learning easier for students who need a calm place, and librarians could track how often it is used. Would more students finish assignments if a quiet option were available?

Accept answers that accurately connect quoted language to its likely effect on the Student Council. For Part 3, accept varied school improvements if the response has exactly three sentences, 45 to 60 words, and includes all four required persuasive moves.