Sentences That Persuade

How sentence patterns guide different readers

8.P.AC.2.c "Make decisions about sentence structure and syntax in order to accommodate and influence the audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that speak directly to a reader, circle the questions, and number the commands in each paragraph. Then compare how the writer changes sentence patterns for students, the principal, and volunteers.

A Refill Station Request

(1) Students, the hallway fountain is crowded after lunch. Bring a reusable bottle, fill it before class, and keep moving. Need a quick place to refill? A station near the gym could help. It would offer cold water, and its taller spout could fit many bottles. Picture the change: fewer students waiting, fewer plastic bottles in trash cans, and more water ready when practice begins. Choose a bottle. Choose the refill station. Make it part of your day.

(2) Principal Chen, our student council requests one refill station near the gym. Because athletes, clubs, and families use that hallway after school, the station would serve people beyond one lunch period. The unit should be installed beside the existing fountain, where plumbing already reaches the wall, and it should include a counter that shows how many bottles have been filled. We have collected student comments, compared locations, and planned a map. May we present the proposal at Thursday's leadership meeting?

(3) Families and neighborhood volunteers, can you help us make the station useful from its first day? Donate a box of reusable bottles for students who forget theirs. Then add your name to the sign-up sheet for the opening week. You can choose one shift, or you can bring a friend. We will label the station, explain how it works, and share the schedule online. One bottle can begin a habit. One helpful hour can support a whole school.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1 Near the end of paragraph 1, what are the three short commands? How does this quick pattern suit the students addressed in the paragraph?

2 Compare the question in paragraph 1 with the question at the end of paragraph 2. How does each question suit its audience?

3 How do the details in the sentence beginning "Because athletes, clubs, and families" help persuade Principal Chen?

4 Paragraph 3 says, "Donate a box of reusable bottles" and then "Then add your name." What does the word "Then" show volunteers about the order of the actions?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences requesting a new recycling bin at school. Write one short, direct sentence for students, then one longer sentence for the principal that gives a reason or a plan.

ANSWER KEY

Sentences That Persuade

GRADE 8 · 8.P.AC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that speak directly to a reader, circle the questions, and number the commands in each paragraph. Then compare how the writer changes sentence patterns for students, the principal, and volunteers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Near the end of paragraph 1, what are the three short commands? How does this quick pattern suit the students addressed in the paragraph?	**"Choose a bottle." "Choose the refill station." "Make it part of your day." The brief commands are quick to read and make the action feel simple for busy students.**
2	Compare the question in paragraph 1 with the question at the end of paragraph 2. How does each question suit its audience?	**The first question quickly asks students to think about needing a refill place. The second politely asks the principal for permission to present the proposal.**
3	How do the details in the sentence beginning "Because athletes, clubs, and families" help persuade Principal Chen?	**They give a reason for the station by showing that it would serve athletes, clubs, and families after school, not only students at lunch.**
4	Paragraph 3 says, "Donate a box of reusable bottles" and then "Then add your name." What does the word "Then" show volunteers about the order of the actions?	**Volunteers should donate bottles first and add their names to the sign-up sheet next.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students, sort your lunch trash before you leave the cafeteria. Principal Chen, because the cafeteria produces recyclable bottles and cans each day, could we place clearly labeled recycling bins beside the exits and have the custodial team collect them with existing containers?

Accept answers that accurately connect sentence length, questions, commands, or detail order to the intended audience and purpose. For the open task, the student should write exactly two audience-specific sentences, with a short direct student sentence and a longer principal sentence containing a reason or plan.