Garden Proposal Moves

Study how a proposal blends storytelling, information, and a clear request.

8.P.CP.2.b "Integrate modes and genres most appropriate to purpose and audience. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that inform the reader, and circle words or sentences that urge the council to act. In the margin, write N beside a narrative moment, I beside informational evidence, and P beside proposal or action language.

A Garden for Our School

1 Yesterday, I watched a monarch butterfly circle the empty planters beside the gym, then fly away. Our school could turn that bare space into a small pollinator garden. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and some birds move pollen between flowers, helping many plants make seeds and fruit. A garden would give students a place to observe this process during science classes. It could also add color near an entrance that now feels plain and unused.

2 Before we buy seeds, the student council should ask families, staff members, and nearby gardeners to help plan the space. A short survey could show which flowers grow well in our area and which times volunteers can water them. We should choose native plants when possible because they are adapted to local conditions and can support local wildlife. The garden does not need expensive decorations. Reused containers, a simple sign, and a watering schedule would help us begin responsibly.

3 Please place the garden proposal on next month's council agenda. If the council approves a trial garden, our group can measure the plot, collect survey results, and present a supply list. We can invite classmates to plant on one Saturday morning and record the insects we notice over several weeks. By comparing our observations, we can decide whether to expand the garden next year. This project would make the campus more welcoming while giving students a real reason to study living things outdoors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the writer trying to persuade, and what clue in the passage reveals this audience?

2. Which opening detail uses a brief personal observation, and how does it support the writer's purpose?

3. Identify two informational details that support the garden proposal. Explain how these details strengthen the proposal.

4. What specific request does the writer make, and which follow-up actions make the message sound like a practical proposal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word proposal message to your principal or student council about one improvement you want at school. Include a brief narrative or descriptive opening, at least two informational details, and a clear request with action steps.

ANSWER KEY

Garden Proposal Moves

GRADE 8 · 8.P.CP.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that inform the reader, and circle words or sentences that urge the council to act. In the margin, write N beside a narrative moment, I beside informational evidence, and P beside proposal or action language. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the writer trying to persuade, and what clue in the passage reveals this audience?	**The writer is trying to persuade the student council. The request to place the proposal on the council agenda reveals the audience.**
2	Which opening detail uses a brief personal observation, and how does it support the writer's purpose?	**The writer watches a monarch butterfly circle the empty planters and fly away. This helps the audience picture the unused space and see why a garden could improve it.**
3	Identify two informational details that support the garden proposal. Explain how these details strengthen the proposal.	**Pollinators move pollen between flowers, helping plants make seeds and fruit, and native plants are adapted to local conditions and can support wildlife. These details give practical reasons for creating the garden.**
4	What specific request does the writer make, and which follow-up actions make the message sound like a practical proposal?	**The writer asks for the proposal to be placed on the next council agenda. Measuring the plot, collecting survey results, presenting a supply list, and recording insects show a practical plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Chen, At lunch last Tuesday, I saw three students leave the courtyard because every bench was wet after rain. Our courtyard has only two covered tables, and more than 200 students use the lunch area each day. Adding a simple awning over four more tables would create dry seating and shade on hot days. The project could begin with a student survey about the best location, followed by estimates from local contractors. Please ask the school improvement team to review this idea at its October meeting. A covered space would make lunch safer, more comfortable, and more usable for many students.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect the writer's narrative, information, and proposal language to the student council audience and purpose. For Part 3, accept any 100 to 130 word proposal that uses an appropriate message format, includes the required modes, and makes a specific request with plausible action steps.