

Make the Case

Read a proposal that asks a school leader to make a practical decision.

8.P.EICC.2.e "Consume and produce texts in order to solve problems or influence decisions. (I/C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the team's request and each reason that supports it, then circle every number or detail used as evidence. These marks will show how the writers try to influence the principal's decision.

A Covered Bike Rack Proposal

- ① To: Principal Alvarez From: Student Green Team Subject: A covered bike rack near the east entrance Our school has 86 students who bike at least once a week, according to a May travel survey. Yet the east entrance has only 24 uncovered rack spaces. On rainy days, students leave bikes under the stairwell or ask family members for rides instead. A covered rack with 40 spaces would give more students a dry, organized place to lock bicycles. We ask the school to include this project in next year's facilities plan.
- ② Building the rack would cost about \$9,600. The Parent Council has already pledged \$3,000 from its spring walkathon, and the city's Safe Routes grant can cover up to \$5,000 for bicycle parking at schools. That leaves as little as \$1,600 for the school. The maintenance manager reports that a concrete pad beside the east entrance already has room for the structure, so the project would not require removing trees or changing traffic lanes. These details show that the proposal is practical, not just desirable.
- ③ Some families may worry that the rack will be used by only a few students or that it could make the entrance crowded. The survey shows regular riders already exceed the current spaces, and a 40-space rack would leave the walkway clear because it would sit on the existing pad. The Green Team will post a map of bike routes and track rack use for a semester. If fewer than 30 spaces are used regularly, the school could add planters to the unused section. Please approve the project by June 15 for summer installation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What action does the Green Team want Principal Alvarez to approve, and when do they want a decision?

2 Which two pieces of evidence make the need for a larger covered rack convincing? Explain how they work together.

3 How do the funding information and the site description respond to the question of whether the project can actually be carried out?

4 Choose one concern named in the last paragraph. How does the Green Team answer that concern?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a real school problem that needs a decision. Write a 90-120-word email to a person who can help solve it, state a clear request, use two relevant facts or examples, and answer one likely concern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the team's request and each reason that supports it, then circle every number or detail used as evidence. These marks will show how the writers try to influence the principal's decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What action does the Green Team want Principal Alvarez to approve, and when do they want a decision?	They want approval for a covered, 40-space bike rack near the east entrance by June 15.
2	Which two pieces of evidence make the need for a larger covered rack convincing? Explain how they work together.	The survey reports 86 weekly student riders, while the east entrance has only 24 uncovered spaces. Together, these facts show that demand is greater than the available parking.
3	How do the funding information and the site description respond to the question of whether the project can actually be carried out?	They show that most of the \$9,600 cost could be covered by a pledge and grant, leaving as little as \$1,600, and that an existing concrete pad can hold the rack.
4	Choose one concern named in the last paragraph. How does the Green Team answer that concern?	For crowding, the team explains that the rack would sit on the existing pad and leave the walkway clear. For limited use, the team cites the survey, plans to track use, and could add planters if fewer than 30 spaces are used regularly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Ms. Chen, Please allow our class to use a labeled bin for reusable headphones during independent reading. Last week, six students could not use the audio version of the novel because the shared headphones were missing or tangled. A bin with eight numbered slots would help us return each pair quickly and show when one is gone. You may worry that buying a bin costs too much. An unused plastic bin is in the supply closet, and we can label it with paper already in the classroom. Please decide before our next novel unit begins.

Accept answers that identify the proposal's request, relevant evidence, and responses to concerns using accurate details from the passage. In the writing task, accept varied school issues if the response has a clear decision request, two relevant supporting details, and a reasonable response to a concern.