Smoke Signals

Infer audience and purpose from situation and choices.

8.P.ST.1.b "Consider how context impacts the purposes of the author and the audience. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues that show where, when, or to whom each paragraph is directed. In the margin, number one clue in each paragraph that helps you infer what the writer wants readers to do or understand.

Smoke Over Ridgeview

1. At 6:10 a.m., the County Health Office sent this phone alert: "Air quality is unhealthy. Keep windows closed. Move sports practice indoors. If you have asthma, carry your medicine and follow your care plan. Check the county map at noon for updates." The alert arrived as yellow-gray smoke from a distant wildfire drifted over town. It included a link to the county map but no details about the fire's cause, size, or the firefighters working there.

2. By lunchtime, Maya Ortiz posted an article on the Ridgeview Middle School news site. She described the canceled soccer match, then interviewed the school nurse about smoke entering buildings through open doors. Ortiz explained how the Air Quality Index uses numbers and colors, and she linked to the health office's map. Her article quoted a seventh grader who missed rehearsal and a coach who moved practice to the gym. A chart compared the day's reading with readings from the previous week.

3. That evening, the town council received a one-page statement from the Youth Sports Alliance. The statement listed five canceled games, the cost of renting indoor courts, and the number of players with breathing conditions. It asked the council to add filtered-air spaces to the recreation center renovation planned for next spring. The writers included estimates from a local contractor and cited two recent smoke days. Council members were scheduled to vote on the renovation budget the following Tuesday.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is most likely meant to receive the phone alert in paragraph 1, and what does the writer want those readers to do? Use two details from the paragraph.

2. Why might Ortiz include an explanation of the Air Quality Index, interviews, and a comparison chart in paragraph 2 instead of only giving safety directions?

3. How does the council's planned budget vote help explain why the Youth Sports Alliance includes costs and a contractor's estimate in paragraph 3?

4. A student who missed school wants to learn what happened at Ridgeview and why activities changed. Which paragraph would be most useful for that student? Give two details that support your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school problem that needs attention. Write two labeled notices, 35 to 50 words each: one for students who need to act right away and one for a school board considering an improvement. Change the details and tone to fit each audience's situation.

ANSWER KEY

Smoke Signals

GRADE 8 · 8.P.ST.1.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues that show where, when, or to whom each paragraph is directed. In the margin, number one clue in each paragraph that helps you infer what the writer wants readers to do or understand. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is most likely meant to receive the phone alert in paragraph 1, and what does the writer want those readers to do? Use two details from the paragraph.	**Town residents dealing with the smoke, especially people who may need health precautions. The phone alert gives immediate commands such as keeping windows closed and moving practice indoors, then directs readers to check for updates at noon.**
2	Why might Ortiz include an explanation of the Air Quality Index, interviews, and a comparison chart in paragraph 2 instead of only giving safety directions?	**She is likely writing for school community readers who need to understand how the smoke affects school activities and how conditions compare with earlier days. The explanation, interviews, and chart provide background and different school perspectives.**
3	How does the council's planned budget vote help explain why the Youth Sports Alliance includes costs and a contractor's estimate in paragraph 3?	**The writers want to influence an upcoming budget decision, so they include financial details and an estimate that council members could use when considering the renovation.**
4	A student who missed school wants to learn what happened at Ridgeview and why activities changed. Which paragraph would be most useful for that student? Give two details that support your choice.	**Paragraph 2. It discusses the canceled soccer match and rehearsal, includes information from the school nurse, and explains the Air Quality Index with a comparison chart.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students: The water fountain near the gym is closed until 1:00 p.m. Bring a filled bottle from home or use the cafeteria fountains. Do not drink from the taped-off fountain. Check the office screen before lunch for updates. School Board: A broken pipe closed the gym fountain for three days this month. Cafeteria lines grew longer, and athletes carried water from distant halls. Please include two bottle-filling stations in next year's repair plan, using the attached plumbing estimate.

Accept reasonable inferences when students support them with accurate passage details. In Part 3, each notice should address a distinct audience and use choices suited to that audience's situation.