Routes Worth Protecting

Analyze how a public comment blends imagery, evidence, and a direct request.

9.P.AC.2.a "Integrate literary, expository, and opinion (grades K-5) or rhetorical (grades 6-12) elements to appeal to target audiences and achieve specific purposes. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words that name the audience or call for action. Underline one literary image, one credibility-building detail, and one reason-based claim, then label them L, C, and R to show how the writer persuades council members.

Public Comment: Harbor Avenue Safety

1 Members of the Harbor City Council, picture a student stepping off a late bus on a winter afternoon. The sidewalk near Eastview High is dark, and cars turn quickly across the crosswalk. Last month, I walked this route with our school's safety club and counted the places where a driver cannot easily see a person waiting to cross. We are not asking for a grand monument. We are asking for two raised crosswalks and brighter lights on Harbor Avenue. These changes would make the route safer for students, workers, and older neighbors who use the same street.

2 Some may say that traffic upgrades cost too much. Yet a raised crosswalk is a focused investment in a place people already travel every day. When drivers slow before a crossing, they have more time to notice a backpack, a cane, or a delivery cart. I have spoken with the crossing guard, who watches families navigate this corner each morning, and she supports improvements. Her daily view matters because she sees patterns that a brief meeting cannot show. Safer crossings also invite more people to walk, which can reduce the number of cars crowding the school entrance.

3 Council members, you decide whether Harbor Avenue remains a daily worry or becomes a route people can trust. Imagine the message sent when a city protects a teenager carrying a trumpet, a parent pushing a stroller, and a retiree heading to the pharmacy. The proposal is limited, practical, and shared by people who use the street. Please place the crosswalk and lighting project in this year's transportation budget, then ask staff to report on its progress. A safer walk home is not an extra feature. It is part of a city that treats every resident's trip as worth protecting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. Identify one literary image from paragraph 1 or paragraph 3. How does that image help the writer appeal to the audience?

3. What is one credibility-building detail and one reason-based detail the writer uses? Explain how each supports the request.

4. Why is the final request in paragraph 3 suited to the council members?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 120 to 150 word public comment to your school board asking it to turn an unused library storage area into a quiet study room. Include a vivid image or brief moment, a credibility-building detail, a reason-based detail, and a question or clear call to action.

ANSWER KEY

Routes Worth Protecting

GRADE 9 · 9.P.AC.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words that name the audience or call for action. Underline one literary image, one credibility-building detail, and one reason-based claim, then label them L, C, and R to show how the writer persuades council members. 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 specific action does the writer want that audience to take?	**The target audience is the Harbor City Council. The writer wants it to fund raised crosswalks and brighter lights on Harbor Avenue.**
2	Identify one literary image from paragraph 1 or paragraph 3. How does that image help the writer appeal to the audience?	**The image of a teenager carrying a trumpet, a parent pushing a stroller, and a retiree heading to the pharmacy makes the people affected by the street feel real and memorable.**
3	What is one credibility-building detail and one reason-based detail the writer uses? Explain how each supports the request.	**The writer walked the route with the safety club and spoke with the crossing guard, which shows firsthand knowledge. The explanation that slower drivers have more time to notice people gives a practical reason for raised crosswalks.**
4	Why is the final request in paragraph 3 suited to the council members?	**It asks them to put the project in the transportation budget and require a progress report, actions that council members have the authority to take.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the school board, at 3:20, the library's last open tables fill with backpacks, whispered questions, and students waiting for a ride. I volunteer there twice a week, so I see classmates trying to finish lab reports beside conversations and printer lines. A small quiet study room would give them a place to read, revise, and meet with tutors. Our student council's 86-response survey found that 63 students would use such a room at least weekly. Can we expect careful work when the only available space is crowded and noisy? Please convert the unused storage area beside the library into a supervised study room this year. This practical change would help students use the time they already spend at school.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations of the writer's audience, purpose, and rhetorical choices. For the open response, look for a clear school board audience, a specific request, and purposeful use of all four required elements.