Words That Move

Study how a model request guides a decision.

9.P.AC.2.b "Craft words and phrases in order to influence the responses, thoughts, decisions, and questions of the target audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words or phrases that make covered bike racks sound necessary or practical. Circle the final sentence that directly tells the board what to do, and number three different influence moves you notice.

A Safer Stop

1. Members of the Riverton School Board, please approve covered bike racks at Northside High before next winter. Each morning, students lock bicycles to fences, railings, and the few crowded racks near the front entrance. When rain soaks seats and backpacks, some riders arrive late or ask family members for rides instead. A covered rack is not a luxury decoration. It is a practical signal that students who bike belong here. By adding this small structure, the board can make an active trip to school more reliable for dozens of students.

2. Consider the choice in front of you. The board can spend a modest amount now on racks that protect bikes, or it can keep paying attention only after a student's chain rusts or a wet saddle sends someone home. A roof over the racks would also free staff from deciding where bicycles may be attached. Some people may worry that a covered rack will take space from cars. Place it beside the east gym wall, where the current racks already stand, and no parking spaces need to disappear. This solution respects both drivers and cyclists.

3. Approval this month would let the school install the racks before the rainy season, rather than asking students to endure another year of improvised parking. The proposal does not demand a new building or a complicated rule. It asks for a visible, useful improvement at an entrance students use every day. What message does it send when a student who chooses to ride must search for a legal place to secure a bike? Vote yes on covered racks, and show that safe, independent travel deserves a place at Northside High.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

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

2. Quote one phrase that makes covered bike racks seem more necessary than decorative. Then explain how the phrase could influence the board.

3. What concern does the writer anticipate about the racks, and how does the writer answer that concern?

4. What question does the writer ask in paragraph 3, and what thought is it meant to create for board members?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70-90 word email to your principal asking for a quiet study space during lunch. Include one concrete detail, one phrase that anticipates a concern, and one question meant to influence the principal's decision.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Move

GRADE 9 · 9.P.AC.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words or phrases that make covered bike racks sound necessary or practical. Circle the final sentence that directly tells the board what to do, and number three different influence moves you notice. 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 exact action does the writer want that audience to take?	**The target audience is the Riverton School Board, and the writer wants it to approve covered bike racks at Northside High before winter.**
2	Quote one phrase that makes covered bike racks seem more necessary than decorative. Then explain how the phrase could influence the board.	**"Not a luxury decoration" frames the racks as a need rather than an optional extra, making approval seem more responsible.**
3	What concern does the writer anticipate about the racks, and how does the writer answer that concern?	**The writer anticipates concern that the racks will take space from cars. The writer proposes placing them beside the east gym wall, where no parking spaces would disappear.**
4	What question does the writer ask in paragraph 3, and what thought is it meant to create for board members?	**The writer asks what message it sends when a student cannot find a legal place to secure a bike. It is meant to make board members think that the school does not adequately support students who ride.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Chen, please open the library's side room as a quiet study space during lunch. Last Thursday, I tried to finish a chemistry lab report while thirty students talked near the cafeteria tables. The room would not require new furniture, since it already has six tables and chairs. Could students complete assignments more successfully if they had one calm place to work? This small change would support focused learners without taking lunch away from anyone.

Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text. Accept answers that accurately identify the audience, requested action, and effects of specific persuasive wording in the passage. For the writing task, accept varied requests if the response is 70-90 words and includes a concrete detail, an anticipated concern, and a decision-focused question.