Purpose in Action

Trace how a public comment targets its audience.

9.P.ST.2.a "Develop and apply knowledge of author, audience, and context to discern and establish the purpose of texts being interpreted or constructed and to evaluate the extent to which those texts achieve those purposes. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's request and the details that support it. Circle words or phrases that show who the writer is addressing or why the message is timely.

A Bench for the Bus Stop

1 To the Riverton City Council, I am Maya Ortiz, a ninth grader who rides Route 6 to school each morning. At the Oak Street stop, students wait beside a busy four-lane road with no bench or shelter. In rain, backpacks and musical instruments get wet. In summer, the sidewalk offers no shade. Last month, my friend missed the bus after stepping into a nearby store to escape a sudden storm. I am writing before your April transportation budget meeting because a small improvement at this stop could make a daily trip safer and more reliable for students and other riders.

2 A bench and a roof would not solve every problem on Oak Street, but they would give riders a dry, visible place to wait. The council already plans how to spend transportation funds, so this is the practical time to include the stop. A simple shelter could also help older residents who use Route 6 for medical appointments and workers traveling before dawn. The change would serve more than one group without changing the bus route or adding a new service. It would show that Riverton values public transportation as a shared part of city life, not merely a way for people to reach school.

3 Council members, please add an Oak Street shelter to the April budget and ask staff to choose a location that does not block the sidewalk. This request is modest: it needs a bench, a roof, and clear space for wheelchairs and strollers. You can measure its value by visiting the stop during the morning rush, when riders crowd close to traffic or stand in bad weather. The project would not require a new route, yet it could improve the wait for hundreds of trips each week. I ask you to fund this practical upgrade and report the construction timeline to the public.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who wrote this message, who is meant to read it, and what situation led to the message?

2. What specific action does Maya want the council to take?

3. Choose two details from paragraph 2 that would matter to City Council members. Explain how each detail supports Maya's purpose.

4. The writer says that a shelter would not solve every problem on Oak Street. How does this choice affect how well the message achieves its purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100-130 word message to a real or imagined decision-maker about a school or community improvement. Make a specific request, include two details that fit your audience and situation, and end with a sentence that states your purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Purpose in Action

GRADE 9 · 9.P.ST.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's request and the details that support it. Circle words or phrases that show who the writer is addressing or why the message is timely. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who wrote this message, who is meant to read it, and what situation led to the message?	**Maya Ortiz, a ninth-grade Route 6 rider, wrote to the Riverton City Council. She wrote because riders at the Oak Street stop lack a bench and shelter, and the council is preparing its April transportation budget.**
2	What specific action does Maya want the council to take?	**She wants the council to add an Oak Street bus shelter with a bench to the April budget.**
3	Choose two details from paragraph 2 that would matter to City Council members. Explain how each detail supports Maya's purpose.	**The council is already planning transportation spending, so the request fits its current work. The shelter would help older residents and workers without requiring a new route or service, making it a practical public benefit.**
4	The writer says that a shelter would not solve every problem on Oak Street. How does this choice affect how well the message achieves its purpose?	**It makes Maya sound realistic and credible because she acknowledges a limit while explaining the useful benefits of the shelter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Library Board Members, Please keep the Harbor Public Library open until 8:00 p.m. on two weeknights during the school year. Many students finish sports, jobs, or family duties after the library closes at 6:00 p.m. The library's computers, quiet tables, and research databases give students a place to complete assignments when home is crowded or internet access is unreliable. Adding two later evenings would use the building when families already need it, rather than requiring a new facility. I ask the board to consider this change when it plans next year's schedule. My purpose is to persuade the board to add later hours for students and families.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Maya's audience, context, and purpose when they are supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept varied topics if the message clearly addresses a decision-maker, suits that audience, gives relevant support, and states a purpose.