Words That Persuade

Read a proposal, then write for a specific audience.

12.4.W.2 "Students will select language to create a specific effect in writing according to purpose and audience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that make students' need vivid, circle two phrases that show respect for the board's responsibilities, and write 1 beside a phrase that asks the board to take a specific action. Notice how each choice could affect this audience.

A Proposal for Library Hours

1. Members of the Cedar Ridge school board, at 3:15 the library doors close, but many students' workdays have barely begun. Some wait for a ride; others need a computer before heading to an evening shift. For students who share a crowded home or need a dependable computer, the library is more than a room of shelves. It is a quiet place to think. I ask you to keep it open until 6:00 on two weekdays. That small change would give students who cannot study right after school a reliable place to start.

2. I recognize that longer hours require staffing and money, and I am not asking the district to promise what it cannot sustain. Begin with a six-week trial on Tuesdays and Thursdays, staffed by an adult already approved for campus supervision. Record how many students use the space each hour, then review those numbers alongside the cost. A trial does not erase the expense, but it lets you measure the benefit before committing to a permanent schedule. This approach respects the board's responsibility to spend carefully while giving students a fair chance to show that the hours matter.

3. Consider a student who needs to finish a lab report but has no quiet place at home. Extra time at a desk can turn a rushed draft into work that reflects what the student actually knows. I am not asking you to solve every barrier to learning with one schedule change. I am asking you to test one practical way to remove a barrier. At your next meeting, please authorize the six-week trial and publish the usage and cost figures afterward, so families can judge the result with you.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the phrase “workdays have barely begun” shape the board's view of the 3:15 closing time?

2. What effect might “a quiet place to think” have on board members considering the request?

3. Identify two phrases in paragraph 2 that acknowledge the board's financial responsibilities. How could those choices affect the audience?

4. How does the final request to publish usage and cost figures make the proposal more persuasive to board members and families?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word message to your school principal proposing a change to the morning arrival routine. Include a concrete detail that shows the need, respectfully acknowledge a practical concern, and make a specific request.

ANSWER KEY

Words That Persuade

GRADE 12 · 12.4.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that make students' need vivid, circle two phrases that show respect for the board's responsibilities, and write 1 beside a phrase that asks the board to take a specific action. Notice how each choice could affect this audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the phrase "workdays have barely begun" shape the board's view of the 3:15 closing time?	**It presents 3:15 as too early for students who still need time and a place to work.**
2	What effect might "a quiet place to think" have on board members considering the request?	**It emphasizes the library's value as a place for focused work, not just a room containing books.**
3	Identify two phrases in paragraph 2 that acknowledge the board's financial responsibilities. How could those choices affect the audience?	**"Longer hours require staffing and money" and "the board's responsibility to spend carefully" show that the writer takes costs seriously, which may make the proposal more credible.**
4	How does the final request to publish usage and cost figures make the proposal more persuasive to board members and families?	**It offers evidence the board can use to evaluate the trial and gives families a way to judge the result.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal Lee, the front entrance becomes a knot of backpacks when the bell is five minutes away. Students arriving on time can still be stuck behind visitors waiting to sign in. Please open the gym doors for student arrival from 7:30 to 7:50 and keep the front entrance for visitors. I know supervising another doorway would require staff time. A two-week trial with one assigned staff member could show whether the change eases the line without creating new problems. Please track wait times at both entrances and review the results before deciding on a permanent plan.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how a quoted choice could affect the board. For the original message, look for language suited to a principal, including a concrete need, a respectful acknowledgment of a concern, and a specific request.