Finding the Way

Compare how signs, speech, and gestures guide different visitors.

7.7.R "Students will compare and contrast the effectiveness of techniques used in a variety of alphabetic, aural, visual, spatial, and/or gestural content from various perspectives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what each way of communicating does well, and circle details that show when it falls short so you can compare how each works for different visitors.

The Book Swap

1. At the school book swap, Maya watched three visitors stop at the entrance. A printed sign in small lettering said, "Take one token for each book you bring. Spend each token on one book." Its short sentences gave exact rules that visitors could reread. Beside the sign, a large black arrow pointed toward the check-in desk. The arrow showed where to start without adding more words. A visitor carrying a tall stack of books followed it immediately, but another visitor asked whether the arrow meant checkout or check-in.

2. Across the room, a volunteer made an announcement: "Bring your books to the check-in desk by the windows. You will get one token per book." The spoken message reached people who were not facing the entrance, including a student who struggled to read the sign's small print. But lunch tables scraped the floor, and some visitors missed the words. The volunteer repeated the message slowly. A student near the windows heard it clearly and went straight to the desk; a student by the noisy door still looked confused.

3. When the crowd thickened, another volunteer stood beside the arrow and pointed toward the windows. She then held up one finger and a token as she said, "One book, one token." The gesture helped a visitor who could not hear the announcement over the noise, but it did not explain how to spend tokens. A visitor with limited sight could hear the repeated announcement, yet could not easily see the distant arrow or the volunteer's raised finger. Together, the methods helped more visitors than any single method did.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the printed sign and the announcement differ in their ability to explain the token rules?

2. Compare the arrow and the volunteer's pointing as ways to show visitors where to go.

3. Which method was more useful to the visitor with limited sight, and which helped a visitor who could not hear over the noise? Explain why.

4. What could a visitor learn from the sign that the volunteer's raised finger and token did not explain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your school art show needs a way to guide visitors to the exhibit in the gym. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe two different ways to give directions, compare how well each would work for two visitors with different needs, and explain one limitation of each.

ANSWER KEY

Finding the Way

GRADE 7 · 7.7.R

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what each way of communicating does well, and circle details that show when it falls short so you can compare how each works for different visitors. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the printed sign and the announcement differ in their ability to explain the token rules?	**The sign gave both rules and could be reread. The announcement explained how to get tokens and reached people away from the entrance, but noise made it hard for some visitors to hear.**
2	Compare the arrow and the volunteer's pointing as ways to show visitors where to go.	**Both showed a direction without requiring visitors to read. One visitor followed the arrow immediately, but another was unsure what it meant. The volunteer's pointing showed that the desk was by the windows.**
3	Which method was more useful to the visitor with limited sight, and which helped a visitor who could not hear over the noise? Explain why.	**The repeated announcement helped the visitor with limited sight because they could hear it but could not easily see the arrow or finger. The volunteer's gesture helped the visitor who could not hear the announcement.**
4	What could a visitor learn from the sign that the volunteer's raised finger and token did not explain?	**The sign explained that each token could be spent on one book. The raised finger and token only showed the one-book, one-token exchange.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put a large sign at the entrance that says, "Art show in the gym. Turn left at the library." I would also have a student guide say the directions aloud. A visitor who cannot hear well could read the sign, but a crowd might block it. A visitor with limited sight could hear the guide, but hallway noise might cover the guide's words. Using both methods would give visitors another way to find the gym.

Accept comparisons supported by specific details from the passage. For the open task, look for two distinct ways to give directions, two visitor perspectives, and a limitation of each method.