Make the Case

Revise a school proposal for purpose, audience, and flow

8.2.W.3 "Students will routinely and recursively revise drafts for intended purpose, audience, organization, coherence, and style (e.g., word choice and sentence variety)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's request, number the two main reasons for it in order, and circle one phrase you would revise to sound more specific for the principal.

Draft Letter: A Friday Game Corner

1 Dear Principal Rivera, I am writing to propose a four-week board game corner in the library during Friday lunch. Right now, the cafeteria is the only place many students can spend that time indoors, and its lively noise is not a good fit for everyone. A game corner would offer a place to talk without shouting. Rather than changing the whole lunch schedule, we could begin with one table and see whether students use it. This small test would give us a chance to learn before making a larger decision.

2 A game corner could also help students meet people outside their usual groups. Games with short rounds make it easier to join a table without an invitation from a close friend. That would be really good and stuff. A sign could list simple rules: invite anyone to play, take turns, and return each game before the bell. Those rules would keep the corner welcoming while making cleanup predictable. As a student who sometimes eats lunch alone, I would welcome a low-pressure way to start a conversation.

3 I know that opening a new space requires planning, especially if library staff are already busy. To limit the work, students could bring donated games from home, and a volunteer group could check the pieces each week. An adult would still need to supervise, so I suggest starting only on Fridays when a staff member is available. At the end of four weeks, students and staff could share what worked and what needs to change. If the corner causes problems, we could adjust the rules or stop the trial.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the writer want the principal to approve? Quote the phrase that states the request.

2. What two reasons does the writer give for the game corner? How does presenting them in separate paragraphs help the letter's organization?

3. Rewrite "That would be really good and stuff" so it connects to the sentence before it and sounds appropriate for the principal.

4. How does the first sentence of paragraph 3 prepare the principal for the plan that follows?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph proposing a different four-week trial for your school principal. State your request, give two distinct reasons, and include one practical step; use clear transitions and vary your sentence lengths.

ANSWER KEY

Make the Case

GRADE 8 · 8.2.W.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's request, number the two main reasons for it in order, and circle one phrase you would revise to sound more specific for the principal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer want the principal to approve? Quote the phrase that states the request.	**The writer wants a four-week board game corner in the library during Friday lunch. The request is "to propose a four-week board game corner in the library during Friday lunch."**
2	What two reasons does the writer give for the game corner? How does presenting them in separate paragraphs help the letter's organization?	**It would offer a place to talk without shouting and help students meet people outside their usual groups. A paragraph for each reason makes the argument easier to follow.**
3	Rewrite "That would be really good and stuff" so it connects to the sentence before it and sounds appropriate for the principal.	**Short games would give students an easy way to start conversations with classmates they do not yet know.**
4	How does the first sentence of paragraph 3 prepare the principal for the plan that follows?	**It acknowledges that staff may already be busy. The following sentences then propose ways to limit the work and arrange supervision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Principal Rivera, please consider adding a student-run book swap shelf near the main office for a four-week trial. Students could find a new story without buying a book. Classmates who have finished a book could also give it another reader. How would we keep the shelf tidy? A small student team could sort the books each Friday and, with teachers' permission, move extras to classroom shelves. This trial would cost little, and a short student survey could show whether the shelf is worth keeping.

Accept other specific revisions that connect short games to meeting classmates and suit a letter to a principal. For the open task, look for a different proposal with two distinct reasons, a feasible step, clear transitions, and varied sentence lengths.