Same Idea, Different Voice

Notice how word choice fits an audience.

6.LL.20 "Choose language that maintains consistency in style and tone in a variety of formal and/or informal settings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the intended reader of each paragraph in its heading, greeting, or body. Then underline two phrases in each paragraph that fit the way the writer speaks to that reader.

A Shorter Line for Water

1. Email to the principal: Dear Principal Rivera, Our school has one water bottle filling station near the gym. At lunch, students often wait there while the hallway grows crowded. I respectfully request that the school consider adding a second station near the cafeteria. This location could give students another place to refill their bottles before afternoon classes. It might also reduce the line by the gym. Thank you for considering this suggestion. I would be glad to help gather student opinions about where a new station would be most useful.

2. Text to a friend: Hey, Maya! Did you see the line at the water station today? I almost missed the start of art because I was waiting to fill my bottle. I sent Principal Rivera a note about adding another station near the cafeteria. If you think that spot makes sense, tell me. I want to hear what other students think before I bring it up at the next student council meeting. Maybe we can ask a few friends where they would put one. That line is no joke!

3. School newsletter notice: Students have suggested placing an additional water bottle filling station near the cafeteria. The current station, located by the gym, can have a long line during lunch. Student council members plan to ask classmates which location would be most useful. Their feedback will be shared with Principal Rivera before any decision is made. Families who would like to comment may send a message to the school office by Friday. These suggestions will help the school consider how students can refill bottles more easily during the day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What words in the email make the request sound respectful rather than demanding? Quote them and explain.

2. Which words in the text to Maya make it sound like a message to a friend? Quote one phrase and explain.

3. Choose one full sentence from the text to Maya that would not fit the email to Principal Rivera. Explain how its tone is different.

4. How does the newsletter notice keep a formal tone when inviting families to respond? Quote words that show its tone.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence text to a friend about a different school improvement you would like. Keep the tone informal, name the improvement, and explain why it would help. Do not use the water station idea. Then deliver the same improvement request aloud twice to a partner or teacher: first as an informal conversation with a friend, then as a formal request to the principal. You may jot notes first. Keep each spoken version consistent in style and tone from opening through closing. Ask the listener to name a phrase that fits each audience; revise and repeat if your wording shifts in formality.

ANSWER KEY

Same Idea, Different Voice

GRADE 6 · 6.LL.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the intended reader of each paragraph in its heading, greeting, or body. Then underline two phrases in each paragraph that fit the way the writer speaks to that reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What words in the email make the request sound respectful rather than demanding? Quote them and explain.	**"I respectfully request" makes the suggestion sound polite rather than like an order.**
2	Which words in the text to Maya make it sound like a message to a friend? Quote one phrase and explain.	**"Hey, Maya!" is a casual greeting that fits a message to a friend.**
3	Choose one full sentence from the text to Maya that would not fit the email to Principal Rivera. Explain how its tone is different.	**"That line is no joke!" sounds playful and casual, unlike the email's polite, formal wording.**
4	How does the newsletter notice keep a formal tone when inviting families to respond? Quote words that show its tone.	**"Families who would like to comment may send a message" is a polite invitation suited to a school notice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hey, Sam, the library could really use a few more comfy chairs. The hard seats make it tough to settle in with a book during lunch. Want to help me ask the librarian about it? Spoken informal example: "Hey, Sam, could we ask for more comfy library chairs? It would make reading at lunch easier. Want to help me ask?" Spoken formal example: "Principal Rivera, I would like to suggest adding comfortable chairs to the library. They could help students read during lunch. Thank you for considering this request."

Accept other phrases from the passage when students accurately explain how the wording fits or clashes with its audience. For the text, look for three sentences about a different improvement with a consistently informal tone. Observe both actual spoken performances. Check that each names the same improvement and reason, uses language suited to the stated audience, and maintains that style and tone throughout. Accept varied appropriate wording; assess language choice, not accent. Written notes or the text message alone do not demonstrate the speaking requirement.