

Route to Yes

Analyze how a public proposal is organized for its decision-making audience.

11.T.SS.1.a "Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of a text's organizational structure to meet the needs and expectations of the target audience or serve a specific purpose. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Harbor City, its transit agency, rider counts and proposal are fictional. In the margin, label each paragraph's role in two to four words. Underline a detail that addresses the Transit Board's needs and consider whether the order makes the case convincing.

A Late Bus for Harbor City

- ① At 11:15 p.m., Harbor City's last eastbound bus has already left. Restaurant workers, hospital aides, and community-college students often wait for costly rides or walk along poorly lit streets. The Transit Board should add one late trip on Route 6. This change would serve people whose shifts and classes end after the current schedule. It would also make downtown employers less dependent on workers who own cars. A single additional trip is a practical first step toward safer travel after dark without redesigning the entire system for thousands of residents.
- ② Route 6 is the best place to begin because it connects the hospital, restaurant district and college station. In this fictional scenario, the agency's October rider count shows an average of 31 passengers on the 10:15 p.m. weeknight trip. That count suggests interest in evening travel but cannot establish demand an hour later. The proposed trip might use an existing bus if schedules permit. Staff would estimate driver time, fuel and maintenance costs. A three-month pilot, assessed through boarding totals and rider surveys, would test whether the later trip meets a continuing need.

- ③ Some board members may worry that a lightly used late trip would waste money. A limited pilot could address that concern by setting a review date and requiring cost and scheduling checks before service begins. If the board approves it, riders could learn the new time through stop signs, employer notices and the transit app. I ask the board to vote on this conditional three-month pilot at its next meeting. This proposal offers a way to test a possible improvement instead of assuming that earlier ridership guarantees the later trip's success.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- ① Who is the target audience, and what action does the writer want that audience to take?

- ② How does the first paragraph's movement from a problem to a specific claim help meet the Transit Board's needs?

- ③ Evaluate the choice to place the earlier trip's ridership evidence before the cost and pilot plan. How does it serve the audience, and what limit must readers notice?

- ④ How does the final paragraph respond to a likely objection, and why is the final request effective for this audience?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one change you want your school principal to consider. Write a 90-110 word proposal in three paragraphs: establish a problem and claim, present a feasible plan or evidence, then address one concern and end with a specific action request. Add one sentence explaining why your paragraph order fits a principal's needs.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Harbor City, its transit agency, rider counts and proposal are fictional. In the margin, label each paragraph's role in two to four words. Underline a detail that addresses the Transit Board's needs and consider whether the order makes the case convincing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the target audience, and what action does the writer want that audience to take?	The target audience is the Transit Board. The writer wants it to approve a three-month late Route 6 pilot.
2	How does the first paragraph's movement from a problem to a specific claim help meet the Transit Board's needs?	It first establishes the transportation problem and affected riders, then gives the board a specific solution to consider.
3	Evaluate the choice to place the earlier trip's ridership evidence before the cost and pilot plan. How does it serve the audience, and what limit must readers notice?	It gives the board a reason to investigate demand before considering feasibility and testing. The earlier count cannot establish later demand, so the pilot and cost checks remain necessary.
4	How does the final paragraph respond to a likely objection, and why is the final request effective for this audience?	It addresses waste concerns through a time-limited, conditional pilot and required checks. The specific vote request is useful for a decision-making board, though acceptance depends on the checks, not the order alone.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should investigate a water-refill station beside the gym entrance. Students leaving practice need convenient access to water, and a station could offer another place to refill reusable bottles.

First, a planning team could request supplier quotes and ask facilities staff to check plumbing, access and maintenance needs. Student council fundraising could cover part of the cost if the project proves feasible.

Although expenses may concern the administration, checking costs before purchase would support a responsible decision. Please approve a planning team this month to report its findings before the next budget meeting. The principal could then evaluate the proposal.

Organization note: This order gives the principal a purpose, a feasible investigation and a response to costs before requesting a decision.

Evaluate how problem, evidence, feasibility, objection and action request serve the decision-maker; accept supported criticism of the organization. The source and sample are fictional models. Require a 90-110-word proposal in three paragraphs plus a separate one-sentence organization explanation. Count the proposal body separately from that note. Do not treat fictional counts as actual agency evidence.