Words for the Room

Match your speaking style to your audience and purpose.

8SL6 "Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that fit Maya's formal board speech, and circle words or phrases that fit her volunteer talk. These choices show how a speaker changes language for different audiences and tasks.

Maya's Two Speeches

1. At the monthly school board meeting, eighth grader Maya presented a request for longer library hours. She stood at the microphone and said, "Good evening, members of the board. Our survey of 126 students shows that many need a quiet place to work after school. I respectfully ask you to consider keeping the library open until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays." Maya used complete sentences, a measured pace, and a formal greeting because she was speaking to adults who would make a decision.

2. Later that day, Maya spoke to the students who might volunteer at the library. She began, "Hi, book helpers. We need people to shelve returns and greet younger readers on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Can you sign up by Friday?" Her friendly greeting and direct question matched a brief recruitment talk. She did not repeat the survey results, introduce herself with a title, or use a formal closing. Those details would have slowed a message meant to get classmates involved quickly.

3. Before speaking, Maya considered her audience, purpose, and setting. For the board, she needed to inform decision makers and make a respectful request, so formal English helped her sound prepared. For volunteers, she needed a quick response, so a warm, concise style fit better. Maya still spoke clearly in both situations. Adapting speech did not mean changing her main idea, library help after school. It meant choosing details, words, and a tone that helped each audience understand what to do.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What three kinds of information did Maya leave out of her volunteer talk? List all three.

2. Copy one phrase from Maya's board speech that uses formal English. Why does that phrase fit the board meeting?

3. Why did Maya use a friendly greeting and a direct question when speaking to potential volunteers?

4. State one similarity and one difference between Maya's two speeches.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one school improvement you want. Write a two-sentence formal request to the principal and a two-sentence casual announcement to classmates about the same idea. Label each audience. Then speak both versions to a partner playing each audience. Keep the goal clear while changing your language and tone for that listener; use formal English for the formal version. Ask your partner to name one choice that fit each audience. Repeat a version if needed to make the fit clearer. Teacher help and rehearsal are welcome.

ANSWER KEY

Words for the Room

GRADE 8 · 8SL6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that fit Maya's formal board speech, and circle words or phrases that fit her volunteer talk. These choices show how a speaker changes language for different audiences and tasks. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three kinds of information did Maya leave out of her volunteer talk? List all three.	**She left out the survey results, an introduction with a title, and a formal closing.**
2	Copy one phrase from Maya's board speech that uses formal English. Why does that phrase fit the board meeting?	**Possible phrase: "I respectfully ask you to consider." It fits because Maya is making a respectful request to adult decision makers.**
3	Why did Maya use a friendly greeting and a direct question when speaking to potential volunteers?	**She wanted classmates to respond quickly and sign up to help, so a brief, warm recruitment style fit the task.**
4	State one similarity and one difference between Maya's two speeches.	**Similarity: Both speeches clearly communicate Maya's idea about library help after school. Difference: The board speech is formal and includes survey evidence, while the volunteer speech is brief, friendly, and asks students to sign up.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Principal: Good afternoon, Principal Lee. I respectfully request an additional water bottle filling station near the gym because students need water after practice.
Classmates: Hi, everyone. We are asking for a water station by the gym, so tell the student council if you want one too.

Accept different wording when the formal message uses respectful, complete language for the principal and the casual message uses an appropriate peer-friendly tone. Both messages should communicate the same school improvement and contain exactly two sentences each. Observe both actual spoken versions, including their clear purpose, audience-appropriate language and tone, and formal English when appropriate. Ask the listener to identify an audience-fitting choice actually heard. Written versions alone do not complete the speaking task. Keep the original two sentences per version; feedback is separate.