Speak to the Board

Notice how a speaker matches language to an audience and purpose.

6.C.2.A.iii "Report orally on a topic or present an opinion. This includes: Using language, vocabulary, and style appropriate to the audience, topic, and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three words or phrases that show the speaker is addressing the school board. Circle three words or phrases that make the request sound respectful and serious.

A Request for Shade

1. Good evening, members of the school board. I am speaking as a sixth-grade student who uses our playground every day. Our playground has a basketball court and open field, but it has very little shade. On warm days, students wait in direct sun during recess, and some choose to sit inside instead. I believe the school should add several shade structures near the court and the lunch tables. This change would make outdoor time safer and more comfortable for many students.

2. Shade structures are roofs made from durable fabric or other materials. They block part of the sun while still allowing air to move through the area. The National Weather Service warns that heat can make people sick, especially when they are active outdoors. Adding shade would not solve every hot-day problem, but it would give students a cooler place to rest. It could also help teachers supervise recess because more students could remain outside comfortably.

3. Some people may worry about the cost. The board could begin with one structure and ask local businesses or community groups to support the project. This plan is practical because it starts small and serves students right away. I am not asking for a luxury. I am asking for a safer playground that more students can use on sunny days. Please consider placing shade structures in next year's facilities budget. Thank you for listening today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What words show who the speaker is addressing? Explain how these words make the speech fit that audience.

2. Why does the speaker explain what shade structures are before giving more reasons for the plan?

3. How does the phrase “Some people may worry about the cost” affect the speaker's tone?

4. What specific action does the speaker ask the board to take, and why is this useful in an opinion speech?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90- to 110-word speech to your principal that presents an opinion about one change at school. Use a formal greeting, give at least two reasons, address one possible concern, and end with a clear request. Then deliver your speech to a partner acting as the principal. Ask which word or phrase suits this audience and purpose and whether anything needs a clearer explanation. Revise and repeat that part if needed. Record a brief listener comment below. You may rehearse with adult support.

ANSWER KEY

Speak to the Board

GRADE 6 · 6.C.2.A.iii

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three words or phrases that show the speaker is addressing the school board. Circle three words or phrases that make the request sound respectful and serious. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What words show who the speaker is addressing? Explain how these words make the speech fit that audience.	**"Good evening, members of the school board." The formal greeting directly addresses the board and fits a public request.**
2	Why does the speaker explain what shade structures are before giving more reasons for the plan?	**The explanation helps the board understand the specific item the speaker wants the school to add.**
3	How does the phrase "Some people may worry about the cost" affect the speaker's tone?	**It gives the speech a respectful, reasonable tone because the speaker acknowledges a possible concern.**
4	What specific action does the speaker ask the board to take, and why is this useful in an opinion speech?	**The speaker asks the board to place shade structures in next year's facilities budget. A specific action tells the audience exactly what the speaker wants them to do.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Good afternoon, Principal Rivera. I believe our school should set aside one quiet lunch space in the library or an empty classroom. Some students need a calm place to read, finish work, or take a break from the noisy cafeteria. A quiet space could help students return to class ready to learn. You may be concerned that it would require extra supervision. One staff member could monitor the room during lunch, and students could sign up for a seat. Please consider trying this plan for one month and asking students for feedback.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect the speaker's word choices to the school board audience and the purpose of requesting shade. For the speech, look for language appropriate for a principal, a clear opinion, supporting reasons, a concern and response, and a specific request. Observe the speech to a partner acting as principal. Check that the spoken vocabulary, language and style fit the audience, school topic and request, and that the listener names a suitable example. Support clarification and another try where needed; a real principal meeting is not required. The 92-word model fits the requested range.