Make It Heard

Read a speaker's rehearsal choices, then plan your own.

7.SL.4.b "Use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions Maya takes to make eye contact, circle two actions she takes to make her voice easy to hear, and number two actions she takes to prepare tricky words. Your marks will help you find evidence for your answers.

The Refill Pitch

1. At the student council meeting, Maya proposed adding a water bottle refill station near the gym. She had notes, but she did not want to read them with her face down. Before she began, she chose three places to look: classmates on the left, the principal in the center, and teammates on the right. After each main point, she lifted her eyes from her notes and looked at one of those places. No one had to stare at Maya, and Maya did not stare at anyone.

2. The meeting was held in the library, where chairs stretched to the back wall. During a practice run, a friend sat in the last row. Maya spoke at her usual desk-partner volume, and the friend could not catch the words. She tried again, using a stronger voice while keeping her tone natural. The friend raised a thumb when every sentence was easy to hear. At the meeting, Maya kept that same volume, even when someone opened the library door.

3. Two words in Maya's pitch had tripped her up during rehearsal: "refillable" and "maintenance." She had rushed through them, so her friend heard "refill" and missed the rest. Maya marked a small pause before each tricky word in her notes. Then she practiced saying each word slowly, making every part of the word clear without stretching it out. During the meeting, she used her pauses and said both words clearly. The principal could understand what the station would need, not just where Maya wanted to put it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya use her notes without losing eye contact with her listeners?

2. Why was Maya's usual desk-partner volume not enough, and what did she change?

3. What two rehearsal actions helped Maya pronounce "maintenance" clearly?

4. When the library door opened, what did Maya do that helped listeners continue to hear her? What choice from earlier in the passage helped her stay connected to them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a short talk about a school improvement of your choice. In three sentences, explain where you will look while speaking, how you will test and adjust your volume, and how you will practice saying one topic word clearly.

ANSWER KEY # Make It Heard

GRADE 7 · 7.SL.4.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions Maya takes to make eye contact, circle two actions she takes to make her voice easy to hear, and number two actions she takes to prepare tricky words. Your marks will help you find evidence for your answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya use her notes without losing eye contact with her listeners?	**After each main point, she looked up from her notes toward listeners in one of three parts of the room.**
2	Why was Maya's usual desk-partner volume not enough, and what did she change?	**Her friend in the last row could not catch her words, so Maya used a stronger voice while keeping her tone natural.**
3	What two rehearsal actions helped Maya pronounce "maintenance" clearly?	**She marked a pause before the word and practiced saying each part slowly and clearly.**
4	When the library door opened, what did Maya do that helped listeners continue to hear her? What choice from earlier in the passage helped her stay connected to them?	**She kept the volume she had tested in rehearsal. Looking up from her notes toward listeners after each main point helped her stay connected to them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For my pitch about a covered bike rack, I will look toward listeners across the room after each key point instead of reading my entire card. I will ask a classmate at the back to check my volume and speak more strongly if needed. I will practice saying "installation" in clear parts, then say it smoothly in my talk.

Accept passage-based answers that identify how Maya adjusted her gaze, volume, or pronunciation. For Part 3, look for three sentences with a specific, workable plan for each speaking skill.