Change Your Message

Notice how a speaker adjusts to audience and feedback.

7.SL.6 "Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, audiences, and tasks, using self-reflection and feedback to and from others and demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one phrase Maya uses with classmates, circle one phrase she uses at the council meeting, and number two places where feedback or reflection leads her to change her speech.

Maya Makes Her Case

1. At lunch, Maya asked her classmates to help her start a quiet corner in the library. "You know how the cafeteria gets loud? I want a spot where we can read or work without all that noise," she said. She added, "Maybe we could try it on Tuesdays and see if anyone uses it." Her friends knew the lunchroom well, so Maya used a familiar example and relaxed words. Before her meeting with the school council, she asked two classmates to listen and tell her what sounded unclear.

2. One classmate said "quiet corner" sounded like a permanent change, and another wanted to know who would supervise it. Maya realized her first explanation had skipped those details. At the council meeting, she said, "I propose a four-week trial of a quiet study area in the library on Tuesdays during lunch. A staff member already assigned to the library would supervise the area. At the end of the trial, we could count how many students used it." She spoke at a measured pace and replaced "spot" with "study area."

3. After the meeting, the council adviser told Maya that her plan was clear but her last sentence sounded too certain. She had said, "The numbers will prove everyone needs this." Maya wrote a revision in her notes: "The number of students who use the area could help us decide whether to continue the trial." She also noted that she had looked down while explaining the schedule. For her next presentation, she planned to glance at a short outline instead of reading every word from a page.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya change her wording for the council? Give one example from each audience.

2. What did Maya change in her council speech because of her classmates' feedback?

3. Why is Maya's revised sentence about counting students a better choice for her next presentation?

4. What did Maya notice about her own speaking, and what will she do differently next time?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A friend says your request to keep bicycles out of a shared hallway sounds like a complaint, not a plan. Write two sentences you would say to the building manager, using formal English and offering a solution, then write one sentence explaining how you used your friend's feedback.

ANSWER KEY

Change Your Message

GRADE 7 · 7.SL.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one phrase Maya uses with classmates, circle one phrase she uses at the council meeting, and number two places where feedback or reflection leads her to change her speech. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya change her wording for the council? Give one example from each audience.	**With classmates, Maya calls the place a "spot." At the council meeting, she calls it a "quiet study area" and describes a four-week trial.**
2	What did Maya change in her council speech because of her classmates' feedback?	**She said the plan was a four-week trial rather than a permanent change, and she explained that a staff member assigned to the library would supervise it.**
3	Why is Maya's revised sentence about counting students a better choice for her next presentation?	**It says the count could help the council decide what to do, rather than claiming the numbers will prove everyone needs the area.**
4	What did Maya notice about her own speaking, and what will she do differently next time?	**She noticed that she looked down while explaining the schedule. Next time, she plans to glance at a short outline instead of reading every word.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Could we designate a storage area for bicycles so the shared hallway stays clear? I would be glad to help residents choose a suitable location. I added a possible solution after my friend said my first request sounded like a complaint.

Accept other accurate passage examples that show a change in wording, detail, or delivery. For Your Turn, look for two courteous sentences addressed to the manager and one sentence connecting the solution to the friend's feedback.