Make the Case

Trace evidence and reasoning in a short speech.

8.SL.4.a "Include relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's proposal, circle two pieces of evidence that support it, and number two places where the speaker explains why a detail matters.

A Place to Wait

1. Imagine the last bell at Cedar Ridge Middle School. Some students head straight home, but others wait for a late bus and have nowhere quiet to work. I propose that we open the library for twenty minutes after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Last month, our student council asked 48 late-bus riders where they usually wait. Thirty-one said they sit in the noisy main hallway. That count does not represent every student, but it points to a specific group that could use a calmer space.

2. A quiet room matters because waiting time can become useful time. A student who can spread out a math worksheet or read without hallway traffic may finish a task before the bus arrives. The library already has tables, so this plan would not require new furniture. The late buses leave about twenty-five minutes after the final bell, which gives riders time to reach the bus after a twenty-minute library session. Those details make the proposal more practical than a request to keep the whole building open for an hour.

3. Staff time is a real concern. I am not asking the librarian to add two unpaid shifts. Instead, the school could try a four-week pilot with an adult who is already assigned to after-school duty, if that schedule allows it. Students would sign in, and the adult would close the room five minutes before the late buses leave. During the pilot, the council could count attendance and ask riders whether they completed schoolwork. Those results would help the school decide whether the extra access is worth continuing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which survey finding supports the speaker's proposal, and why is it relevant?

2. How do the bus schedule and the proposed library hours support the plan?

3. What concern does the speaker address with a four-week pilot? Give two details that show how the pilot would work.

4. Why does the speaker avoid claiming that the survey represents every student? Use a passage detail to explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your school is considering a covered bicycle rack near its entrance. Last Wednesday, eight bikes were parked outdoors during rain, and the nearest covered rack is a three-minute walk from the entrance. Write a four- or five-sentence speech for or against the new rack. Use relevant evidence, explain your reasoning, and include a practical detail or limit.

ANSWER KEY

Make the Case

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's proposal, circle two pieces of evidence that support it, and number two places where the speaker explains why a detail matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which survey finding supports the speaker's proposal, and why is it relevant?	**Thirty-one of 48 late-bus riders said they wait in the noisy main hallway. The finding identifies riders who might benefit from a quiet place to work.**
2	How do the bus schedule and the proposed library hours support the plan?	**The buses leave about twenty-five minutes after the bell, so a twenty-minute library session leaves riders about five minutes to reach the bus.**
3	What concern does the speaker address with a four-week pilot? Give two details that show how the pilot would work.	**The concern is staff time. An adult already assigned to after-school duty could supervise if available, and students would sign in. Other valid details include closing before the buses leave and tracking attendance.**
4	Why does the speaker avoid claiming that the survey represents every student? Use a passage detail to explain.	**The council asked 48 late-bus riders, not a group representing all students. The finding supports a claim about those riders, not every student.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should consider adding a covered bicycle rack near the entrance. Last Wednesday, eight bikes were parked outdoors during rain, so a closer covered spot might help riders keep their bikes dry. The nearest covered rack is a three-minute walk from the entrance, which may make it less convenient for students arriving just before class. Before building, the school should check how many riders would use the new rack.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect a detail to the proposal. For Part 3, accept either position if the speech uses the supplied evidence accurately, explains its relevance, and includes a practical detail or limit.