Make It Matter

Trace how a speaker keeps a proposal clear and focused.

8.SL.4.c "Emphasize salient points in a focused, coherent manner."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main proposal, circle the two strongest reasons for it, and box the sentence that brings the talk back to the proposal after a concern.

A Better Place for Lost Things

(1) Every Friday, the lost-and-found rack by our gym holds a small mountain of sweatshirts, lunch bags, and water bottles. Yet most students pass the cafeteria twice a day without ever going near that rack. I propose moving it to the wall just outside the cafeteria, where students already walk at lunch. The change would not find every missing item, but it would make looking for one part of a normal day. A lost item cannot be claimed if its owner never sees it.

(2) Visibility matters, but so does space. The gym doorway is narrow when classes change, so stopping there to search through jackets can block people behind you. Along the cafeteria wall, students could glance at the rack while staying out of the food line. Some people may worry that a rack near lunch would add clutter. That is why the rack should stay flat against the wall, away from both the doorway and the serving area. Moving it is not enough; placing it carefully is what makes the plan workable.

(3) Here is a simple way to test the idea before making it permanent. For one week, put the rack along the cafeteria wall and place a small sign where the gym rack used to stand. Each afternoon, a student volunteer could count how many items remain on the rack, without touching or naming anyone's belongings. Those counts would not prove why items disappeared, but they would show whether fewer are left. Move the rack where students will see it, then check whether the change helps.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the speaker's main proposal in one sentence. Which detail from the first paragraph makes that proposal worth considering?

2. Which detail from the second paragraph best shows that the current location causes a problem? Explain why it strengthens the proposal.

3. The speaker raises a concern about clutter near lunch. How does the next sentence answer that concern without losing focus?

4. How does the final sentence emphasize the main proposal while avoiding a promise the speaker cannot prove?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine students often miss announcements about after-school club meetings. Write a 4- to 5-sentence spoken proposal for one way to make meeting details easier to find, with two concrete reasons, a transition, and a final sentence that emphasizes your proposal.

ANSWER KEY

Make It Matter

GRADE 8 · 8.SL.4.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main proposal, circle the two strongest reasons for it, and box the sentence that brings the talk back to the proposal after a concern. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the speaker's main proposal in one sentence. Which detail from the first paragraph makes that proposal worth considering?	**Move the lost-and-found rack outside the cafeteria; students pass that area twice a day but rarely go near the gym rack.**
2	Which detail from the second paragraph best shows that the current location causes a problem? Explain why it strengthens the proposal.	**The gym doorway is narrow, and students searching the rack can block others. Moving the rack could reduce that crowding.**
3	The speaker raises a concern about clutter near lunch. How does the next sentence answer that concern without losing focus?	**It proposes placing the rack flat against the wall, away from the doorway and serving area, so the move remains workable.**
4	How does the final sentence emphasize the main proposal while avoiding a promise the speaker cannot prove?	**It repeats the idea of moving the rack where students will see it, then calls for checking whether the move helps rather than promising it will work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Post one weekly club schedule on the bulletin board beside the main office. Students already pass that board on their way to class, so the schedule would be easy to spot. Also, one schedule would let students compare meeting times instead of searching several messages. If the board gets crowded, reserve one clearly labeled section for clubs. Put club times in one visible place so students can plan which meetings to attend.

Accept different supporting details when students explain how they sharpen the speaker's proposal. For the open task, look for one clear proposal, two relevant reasons, a transition, and a closing sentence that returns to the proposal.