Change Your Pitch

Adapt a request for its audience and use feedback to make it stronger.

8.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 Maya's words to Eli and circle her words to the principal. Number two places where feedback changes her plan.

A Plan for More Games

1. At lunch, Maya spotted students crowded around a single chess board. She wanted the school to lend more games during lunch. To her friend Eli, she said, "We could grab a few games and set up by the windows. Want to help?" Eli agreed because the plan sounded easy to try. Before meeting the principal, Maya changed her opening: "May we have permission to run a lunchtime game checkout for two weeks?" She kept the request brief because the principal had only five minutes.

2. After practicing, Maya asked Eli for feedback. He pointed out that "game checkout" did not explain who would collect the pieces. Maya added a plan: two student volunteers would count each game before and after lunch and return it to the library cabinet. At the meeting, she said, "Would you permit us to test this checkout plan for two weeks? Volunteers will track the games, and the librarian has offered storage space." The principal asked Maya to confirm that volunteers could serve every school day.

3. Maya could not promise daily coverage, so she thanked the principal and asked to return with a schedule. Eli helped her ask four classmates to take turns, and the group made a weekday sign-up list. At a second meeting, Maya presented the list and said, "May we begin the two-week trial next Monday? Each weekday now has two volunteers." The principal approved the trial. Later, Maya told Eli that his question had helped her replace a vague promise with a specific plan she could defend.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare Maya's first request to Eli with her first request to the principal. How does her wording fit each listener?

2. What did Eli say was missing from Maya's plan, and what detail did she add before the meeting?

3. How did Maya respond to the principal's concern about daily volunteers? Why was this better than making a promise she could not confirm?

4. Quote words from Maya's second meeting that suit a formal request. Explain why they fit that setting.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school change that is not about lunchtime games. Write one casual sentence asking a classmate to help, then two formal sentences that each ask the principal for permission for a specific part of your plan. Add one sentence explaining how a classmate's feedback changed a detail in your formal requests.

ANSWER KEY

Change Your Pitch

GRADE 8 · 8.SL.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's words to Eli and circle her words to the principal. Number two places where feedback changes her plan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare Maya's first request to Eli with her first request to the principal. How does her wording fit each listener?	**Maya casually asks Eli, "Want to help?" She formally asks the principal, "May we have permission," and names a two-week trial.**
2	What did Eli say was missing from Maya's plan, and what detail did she add before the meeting?	**Eli said she had not explained who would collect the pieces. Maya added that two volunteers would count the games and return them to the library cabinet.**
3	How did Maya respond to the principal's concern about daily volunteers? Why was this better than making a promise she could not confirm?	**She asked to return with a schedule, then brought a weekday sign-up list. The list supported her claim that two volunteers could serve each day.**
4	Quote words from Maya's second meeting that suit a formal request. Explain why they fit that setting.	**"May we begin the two-week trial next Monday?" politely asks the principal for permission and gives a specific start date.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hey, can you help me start a book swap at school? Principal Chen, may we have permission to try a book swap in the library for one month? Would you permit us to use labeled bins for donated books so they do not clutter the library desk? My classmate warned that loose books could make a mess, so I added the bins to my request.

Accept other accurate examples of casual and formal wording from the passage. For the open task, check that both formal sentences request permission and that the stated feedback leads to a specific change.