Who Is Listening?

Evaluate how a request fits its purpose and audience.

8.W.5.b "Focus on how well purpose and audience have been addressed."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that help persuade the principal to consider the request. Circle one sentence whose wording may weaken the request for this reader.

A Lunch Library Trial

1 Dear Principal Rivera, I am writing to ask you to try opening the library for the first twenty minutes of lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays next month. Some students want a quiet place to read or finish homework, but the library is currently closed at lunch. A short trial would let the school see whether students use the space without committing to a permanent change. Students could eat in the cafeteria after their visit and would bring no food into the library.

2 To keep the trial manageable, I suggest limiting each day to twenty students who sign up that morning. A staff member would need to supervise, so the trial should happen only on days when coverage is available. Students could enter quietly, stay in the library until the twenty minutes end, and return to lunch when their visit ends. Everyone knows the library is the best escape from cafeteria drama. Still, a sign-up list and a clear time limit could help you check whether the plan works without disrupting lunch.

3 At the end of the month, you could review the sign-up lists and ask the supervising adult whether the room stayed quiet. If few students sign up or supervision becomes difficult, the trial could stop. If it runs smoothly, you could ask students whether the quiet space helped them use lunch time well. Please consider approving this limited trial and letting interested students know how to sign up. I would be willing to help explain the rules to other students before the first day. Thank you for considering this request.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the writer want the principal to approve? Why might a short trial appeal to the principal?

2. Which two details in paragraph 2 address the principal's need to manage the library during lunch?

3. Which sentence in paragraph 2 is least suited to a request to the principal? Explain how its wording weakens the request.

4. How does paragraph 3 help the principal decide whether the library should stay open at lunch after the trial?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to students asking whether they would use the proposed library trial. Include when it would happen, explain one rule, and ask a specific question that could help the principal decide whether to try it.

ANSWER KEY

Who Is Listening?

GRADE 8 · 8.W.5.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that help persuade the principal to consider the request. Circle one sentence whose wording may weaken the request for this reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer want the principal to approve? Why might a short trial appeal to the principal?	**The writer wants the library open for the first twenty minutes of lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays next month. A trial lets the school test the idea without making a permanent change.**
2	Which two details in paragraph 2 address the principal's need to manage the library during lunch?	**The writer suggests a limit of twenty students who sign up and says the trial should happen only when a staff member can supervise.**
3	Which sentence in paragraph 2 is least suited to a request to the principal? Explain how its wording weakens the request.	**"Everyone knows the library is the best escape from cafeteria drama." The claim is unsupported, and "cafeteria drama" is informal wording that does not explain how the plan would work.**
4	How does paragraph 3 help the principal decide whether the library should stay open at lunch after the trial?	**It suggests reviewing sign-up lists, checking with the supervising adult, and asking students whether the space helped them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The library might open for the first twenty minutes of lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays next month. You would need to sign up that morning, and no food could go into the library. Would you use this quiet space to read or finish homework, and why?

Accept other passage-supported details in questions 1, 2, and 4 if students explain how they address the principal's concerns. For question 3, accept a reasoned critique of another sentence if the student connects its wording to the audience.