Words With Pull

Notice how word choices shape an audience's response.

7.9.G "explain the purpose of rhetorical devices such as direct address and rhetorical questions and logical fallacies such as loaded language and sweeping generalizations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline direct address, circle rhetorical questions, box loaded language, and number sweeping generalizations. Then consider how each choice may influence the audience.

The Fork Proposal

(1) At a student council meeting, Maya proposed replacing disposable plastic forks in the cafeteria with washable metal ones. She explained that the cafeteria uses thousands of forks during a school year, and staff members already wash trays and cooking tools. "You deserve a lunchroom that does not bury our school in pointless trash," Maya said. "You can help make the change by returning utensils to the collection bin." Several students nodded, while the principal asked how the plan would affect costs and cleanup.

(2) During the discussion, Leo opposed the proposal. "Why should anyone waste precious minutes sorting a fork after lunch?" he asked. He added, "Every student hates extra rules, so this plan will fail." Leo predicted long lines and complained that the cafeteria would become a messy, frustrating place. Maya replied that the council could test the system for one month, count returned utensils, and ask students and staff about the results. The principal said a trial would provide information before the school made a permanent decision.

(3) The next day, the council posted two messages near the cafeteria doors. One message said, "Bring your fork back, and keep our cafeteria cleaner." Another asked, "Do we want trash cans overflowing after every lunch?" A student wrote online that only a careless person would choose disposable forks and that no one at the school cared about waste. The principal removed the post from the council page. She asked students to share reasons, evidence, and questions during the trial instead.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, identify one example of direct address. How might it make students feel involved in Maya's proposal?

2. What rhetorical question does Leo ask in paragraph 2? What concern does it push the audience to consider?

3. In paragraph 3, which phrase uses loaded language to describe people who disagree with the proposal? How could that phrase affect readers?

4. What sweeping generalization does Leo make in paragraph 2? Explain why it does not prove that his prediction is true.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences supporting or opposing a different school improvement idea. Use one direct address or rhetorical question and one loaded-language phrase or sweeping generalization, then explain in the fourth sentence how each choice could influence an audience.

ANSWER KEY # Words With Pull

GRADE 7 · TEKS 7.9.G

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline direct address, circle rhetorical questions, box loaded language, and number sweeping generalizations. Then consider how each choice may influence the audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, identify one example of direct address. How might it make students feel involved in Maya's proposal?	**Possible answers: "You deserve..." or "You can help..." It speaks directly to students and invites them to see themselves as part of the change.**
2	What rhetorical question does Leo ask in paragraph 2? What concern does it push the audience to consider?	**"Why should anyone waste precious minutes sorting a fork after lunch?" It pushes the audience to worry that sorting forks will take too much time.**
3	In paragraph 3, which phrase uses loaded language to describe people who disagree with the proposal? How could that phrase affect readers?	**"Only a careless person" is loaded language. It judges people who disagree and may pressure readers to support the proposal.**
4	What sweeping generalization does Leo make in paragraph 2? Explain why it does not prove that his prediction is true.	**"Every student hates extra rules." It gives no evidence, and it cannot show that all students feel that way or that the plan will fail.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

You can turn the empty courtyard into a school garden. Why should we let that sunny space sit unused? Only a careless person would oppose growing fresh vegetables there. The direct address invites students, the rhetorical question pushes them to agree, and the loaded language pressures them by judging disagreement.

Accept accurately identified examples of the devices and fallacies, including other valid marked phrases in the passage. For Part 3, accept a clear school-related idea, the required choices, and an accurate explanation of how those choices influence readers.