

Voice Fits Audience

Notice how audience and purpose shape a response.

8.6.H “respond orally or in writing with appropriate register, vocabulary, tone, and voice;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one word or phrase in each paragraph that shows how Maya changes her voice for a different audience. In the margin, label each phrase B for board, S for students, or F for family.

Three Ways to Respond

- ① At a school board meeting, Maya says, “Members of the board, I support adding covered bike racks near the east entrance. Many students ride to school, but rain leaves seats and backpacks wet. Covered racks would protect belongings and could encourage more students to bike. Please include this improvement in the campus safety plan.” She waits for the chairperson to recognize her before speaking. Board members are considering next year’s campus improvements and will vote on funding.
- ② Later, Maya posts on the student council message board, “Could we ask for covered bike racks? I got to first period with a soaked backpack after Tuesday’s storm. A roof over the racks would make biking easier for lots of us. Add your ideas here so we can bring a strong request to the principal.” Students can reply beneath her post. The council plans to collect student opinions before meeting with the principal on Friday.
- ③ That evening, Maya texts her older brother, “You would laugh, I nearly carried a pond into class today. My backpack got drenched on the bike ride. I’m trying to get covered racks at school, so at least our stuff can stay dry. Wish me luck at tomorrow’s meeting!” Her brother rides with her sometimes and knows the route. He sends back a laughing emoji and asks whether the school has enough money for the project.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which paragraph uses the most formal register? Copy two phrases that show this register.

2 Compare paragraphs 1 and 2. How does Maya change her vocabulary for the board and for fellow students? Use one phrase from each paragraph in your answer.

3 Why does the sentence “Add your ideas here” fit Maya’s message board post?

4 Identify two features of Maya’s text to her brother that would not fit a school board meeting. Explain why they do not fit.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Your principal and school leadership team are deciding whether to install a water refill station near the gym. Write a 55 to 70 word public comment that uses a respectful, formal voice, gives one specific reason, and clearly asks the team to take action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one word or phrase in each paragraph that shows how Maya changes her voice for a different audience. In the margin, label each phrase B for board, S for students, or F for family. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which paragraph uses the most formal register? Copy two phrases that show this register.	Paragraph 1. Answers may include "Members of the board," "Please include this improvement," and "campus safety plan."
2	Compare paragraphs 1 and 2. How does Maya change her vocabulary for the board and for fellow students? Use one phrase from each paragraph in your answer.	For the board, she uses formal phrases such as "Members of the board" or "campus safety plan." For students, she uses more everyday language, such as "Could we ask" or "lots of us."
3	Why does the sentence "Add your ideas here" fit Maya's message board post?	It invites other students to reply and share opinions so the student council can make a stronger request to the principal.
4	Identify two features of Maya's text to her brother that would not fit a school board meeting. Explain why they do not fit.	Answers may include the joke "I nearly carried a pond into class," the casual phrase "our stuff," or the exclamation point. These features are playful and casual, while a board meeting calls for a respectful, formal voice.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the school leadership team, I support installing a water refill station near the gym. After practices and games, students often need water, and the nearest fountain can create a line. A refill station would help athletes and other students fill reusable bottles quickly. Please consider adding this station during the next facilities update.

Accept responses that use a formal, respectful register for school leaders, include a specific reason for the refill station, and make a clear request. The response must contain 55 to 70 words.