Who Needs Convincing?

Trace audience clues in a public argument.

8.8.E.iii "identifying the intended audience or reader; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least five words or phrases that reveal who the writer expects to read this argument, such as titles, decision-making duties, or concerns.

Sunday at the Library

1 Members of the Oakview City Council, please include Sunday hours for the public library in next year's budget. Many students have sports, jobs, or family duties on Saturday, yet they still need a quiet place to research and read. Opening from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sundays would give families another dependable time to use computers, borrow books, and ask librarians for help. This change would serve residents who cannot visit during the workweek, when the building is open.

2 Sunday hours are a practical use of a building the city already maintains. Instead of constructing a new study center, the council could fund a limited pilot program and review attendance after three months. Library staff could report how many visitors use the space, computers, and children's area. Those results would help elected officials decide whether the service is worth continuing. A careful trial protects public funds while giving residents a chance to show that the hours are needed.

3 Council members should also consider the people who speak at budget meetings less easily than adults with flexible schedules. A Sunday option could help teenagers finish assignments, caregivers find children's programs, and workers pick up materials. The proposal does not ask for every day to be longer. It asks for four Sunday hours and a measured review. Please vote to test the schedule, then use the library's attendance report when making the next budget decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the primary intended audience for this argument?

2. Give two clues from the passage that show the writer is addressing this audience.

3. What concern of the intended audience does the writer address in paragraph 2?

4. Which groups are named as people who could benefit from Sunday hours but are not the primary intended audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one school improvement you want. Write a 3- to 4-sentence argument addressed to a specific decision-making audience. Include the audience's name, one concern that audience might have, and two details chosen to persuade that audience.

ANSWER KEY

Who Needs Convincing?

GRADE 8 · TEKS 8.8.E.iii

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least five words or phrases that reveal who the writer expects to read this argument, such as titles, decision-making duties, or concerns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the primary intended audience for this argument?	**The Oakview City Council members who make library budget decisions.**
2	Give two clues from the passage that show the writer is addressing this audience.	**Answers may include "Members of the Oakview City Council," "next year's budget," "elected officials," "public funds," or "Please vote."**
3	What concern of the intended audience does the writer address in paragraph 2?	**The writer addresses the council's concern about spending public money wisely and using evidence before continuing the program.**
4	Which groups are named as people who could benefit from Sunday hours but are not the primary intended audience?	**Students, families, residents, teenagers, caregivers, and workers are beneficiaries. The council members are the primary audience.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear school board members, please add covered bike racks near the east entrance. Because you must spend school funds wisely, start with ten racks, then count how many students use them during the first semester. This small project would keep bicycles dry and clear the crowded hallway, giving you data before you pay for more racks.

Accept evidence-based answers that identify the city council, rather than library users, as the primary audience. For the open response, accept any clear decision-making audience, a relevant concern, and details tailored to that audience.