Voices Open Doors

Mark a model speech for pauses, emphasis, and emotional shifts.

10.C.2.B "Memorize and accurately recite a speech with intonation, meaningful expression, and emotion that conveys the intended mood (e.g., inspiration, motivation, conviction)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases you would emphasize, circle punctuation that signals a pause, and number three places where your voice should shift in emotion so the speech moves from concern to conviction and motivation.

A Door for Everyone

(1) Last summer, our town library opened its doors during a week of dangerous heat. The building was not fancy, but its cool rooms gave families a safe place to rest, read, charge phones, and find water. I watched a little boy finish a book beside his grandmother while volunteers set out cups. That memory matters because a library is more than shelves. It is a public promise: when people need knowledge, shelter, or connection, a door will open. Today, that promise needs us to act.

(2) Some people say that one student cannot protect a place this important. I disagree. A library loses strength slowly, through one canceled program, one broken computer, one silent meeting. Then it gains strength the same way, through one volunteer hour, one letter, one neighbor who speaks. We do not need to wait for someone important to arrive. We are the people who use these rooms, and we are the people who can defend them. If we want a town where every person can learn, we must make our voices heard.

(3) So, when the council asks what should be funded, do not speak as if this is a small favor. Speak with the calm certainty of someone who has seen the need. Tell them about the student searching for a quiet desk, the job seeker completing an application, the parent learning a new language. Pause after their stories. Let the room picture those faces. Then say this clearly: our library belongs to all of us, so its future is all of our responsibility. We can show up, speak up, and keep that door open.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, after which two-word phrase should you pause before the speaker explains the library's role? Name the punctuation that signals the pause.

2. Which two-word sentence in paragraph 2 should you deliver with firm conviction?

3. When you recite "Then it gains strength the same way," what mood should your voice communicate?

4. Which three actions should you build toward with increasing energy in the final sentence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-to-six-sentence speech that urges your audience to protect or improve a shared place in your community. Underline at least three emphasis words, add two slash marks for pauses, label one sentence with an emotion, then memorize and recite it using those choices.

ANSWER KEY

Voices Open Doors

GRADE 10 · 10.C.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases you would emphasize, circle punctuation that signals a pause, and number three places where your voice should shift in emotion so the speech moves from concern to conviction and motivation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, after which two-word phrase should you pause before the speaker explains the library's role? Name the punctuation that signals the pause.	**Pause after "public promise," at the colon.**
2	Which two-word sentence in paragraph 2 should you deliver with firm conviction?	**"I disagree."**
3	When you recite "Then it gains strength the same way," what mood should your voice communicate?	**Hopeful confidence.**
4	Which three actions should you build toward with increasing energy in the final sentence?	**"Show up, speak up, and keep that door open."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our neighborhood park is not just grass and benches. It is where children play /, neighbors meet /, and families breathe after long days. We must _protect_ it before neglect becomes normal. [Concern] A broken swing tells young people that their joy can wait. Let us volunteer, report damage, and keep this place _open_ and _welcoming_ for everyone.

Accept equivalent descriptions of vocal mood, such as hopeful, determined, or confident for question 3. For the open task, check that the student marks emphasis and pauses, labels an emotion, and recites with choices that match the speech's purpose.