

Speak With Purpose

Notice how a speaker adjusts language for a school board audience.

11.C.2.A.ii "Report orally on a topic or text or present an opinion. This includes: Choosing diction and tone appropriate to the topic, audience, and purpose."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six words or phrases that create a respectful, evidence-based tone. Number three phrases that reveal the speaker's audience or purpose, so you can see how the language fits an oral public comment.

A Practical Request

- ① Members of the school board, thank you for allowing me to speak about adding water-refill stations to our campus. I am a junior who carries a reusable bottle, yet I often find empty fountains or lines between classes. Last month, I counted seven plastic bottles in one hallway trash can after lunch. That small count does not prove every bottle on campus is discarded, but it shows a daily problem we can address. I ask the board to consider refill stations as a practical improvement for students, staff members, and visitors.
- ② Refill stations would not solve plastic waste by themselves, and the board should weigh installation costs, maintenance, and building access. Still, the evidence supports a careful pilot. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generated 35.7 million tons of plastic waste in 2018, although much of that total came from sources beyond schools. A pilot near the cafeteria and gym would let our district measure use before expanding the project. This approach respects the budget while giving students a reliable place to fill bottles during the busiest parts of the day.
- ③ I understand that some community members may prefer spending on classroom materials or teacher support. Those needs matter, so I am not asking for an unlimited purchase. I am asking for a modest, reviewed trial funded through a facilities or sustainability budget if available. The board could publish the pilot's cost and refill data, then decide whether the stations deserve wider support. By taking this measured step, we can reduce needless waste, improve access to drinking water, and make a decision based on local results rather than assumptions. Thank you for your consideration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Who is the speaker addressing, and what action does the speaker want that audience to take? Use one phrase from the passage as evidence.

2 Choose one phrase that creates a respectful tone. Explain how that phrase fits the speaker's audience.

3 How does the speaker use careful diction to avoid overstating the plastic-waste problem? Cite one example and explain its effect.

4 What concern does the speaker acknowledge in the final paragraph, and how does the speaker's language respond to it?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 90-110-word oral comment to a school committee supporting a change you want at school. Use a respectful, formal tone, include one concrete observation, acknowledge one limitation or concern, and make a specific request.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline six words or phrases that create a respectful, evidence-based tone. Number three phrases that reveal the speaker's audience or purpose, so you can see how the language fits an oral public comment. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the speaker addressing, and what action does the speaker want that audience to take? Use one phrase from the passage as evidence.	The speaker addresses the school board and wants it to consider a refill-station pilot. Evidence includes "Members of the school board" and "I ask the board to consider refill stations."
2	Choose one phrase that creates a respectful tone. Explain how that phrase fits the speaker's audience.	"Thank you for allowing me to speak" creates a respectful tone because the speaker is addressing a decision-making public body.
3	How does the speaker use careful diction to avoid overstating the plastic-waste problem? Cite one example and explain its effect.	The speaker says, "That small count does not prove every bottle on campus is discarded." This cautious wording makes the speaker sound credible rather than exaggerated.
4	What concern does the speaker acknowledge in the final paragraph, and how does the speaker's language respond to it?	The speaker acknowledges that people may prefer spending on classroom materials or teacher support. Words such as "modest," "reviewed trial," and "if available" present a limited, responsible proposal.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Members of the school committee, I support creating a quiet study room in the library during the final period. Many students need a place to read, revise, or complete online work before activities begin, but the cafeteria is often loud and crowded. I recognize that supervision and space are limited. Therefore, I request a six-week trial using the library's back tables, with a sign-in sheet and one rotating staff member. The committee can review attendance and teacher feedback before making the room permanent. This limited plan supports focused learning without requiring a major renovation.

Accept answers that accurately connect quoted diction to the school board audience, the speaker's purpose, or a respectful and evidence-based tone. For the open response, accept varied school proposals if they meet the length requirement and include all requested elements.