

Speak for Change

Analyze how a speaker uses evidence, audience awareness, and rebuttal.

12.C.2 "Speaking and Presentation of Ideas Report orally on a topic or text or present an opinion. This includes: Selecting the modes and purposes for presentations and synthesizing multiple streams of information. Choosing appropriate vocabulary..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each piece of evidence or source, circle the counterclaim and its rebuttal, and number the speaker's audience-engagement or delivery-adjustment moves. These marks will show how the speaker builds a persuasive oral presentation.

Cooling Spaces Before Summer

- ① Members of the city council, last July's heat wave sent 146 residents to local emergency departments for heat-related illness, according to the county health department. The National Weather Service recorded eleven days above 95 degrees. Those numbers point to one urgent conclusion: our city needs more cooling spaces before next summer. I propose opening three libraries until 9 p.m. on declared heat-emergency days and providing free bus rides to them. This plan combines local health data, weather records, and information from library staff, who report that their buildings already have reliable air conditioning and trained public employees.
- ② Some taxpayers may ask why the city should spend money on evening hours when residents can stay home. During a blackout or in an apartment without safe cooling, home is not always a refuge. Keeping existing libraries open costs less than building new centers, and bus access gives people without cars a practical route. Picture an older neighbor waiting beside a fan that pushes only hot air. We can offer more than sympathy, we can offer a cool, staffed room. I would pause and ask, "Which barrier, transportation or hours, would affect your neighborhood most?" Responses would help me emphasize the issue the audience identifies.
- ③ To keep attention, I would not read every statistic from a slide. I would show a simple map of the three proposed libraries, then look up and speak more slowly after the question. If council members seemed confused about cost, I would return to the comparison between extended hours and new construction and invite a brief question. My closing would be direct: approve the pilot before the first heat emergency, because a cooling space works only when it is open. The proposal is modest, but its purpose is large, to make survival during extreme heat less dependent on income, housing, or transportation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What three streams of information does the speaker combine in the introduction, and how do they support the proposal?

2 State the counterclaim the speaker addresses and summarize the rebuttal.

3 How does the speaker plan to use audience responses after asking about transportation and hours?

4 What delivery adjustment would the speaker make if council members seemed confused about cost, and why would it be effective?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 120-150-word speaking script proposing a practical change at your school or in your community. Include a clear claim, evidence from two different identified sources, a rhetorical device, a counterclaim and rebuttal, and one sentence explaining how you would adjust if listeners looked confused or disengaged. End with a direct call to action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each piece of evidence or source, circle the counterclaim and its rebuttal, and number the speaker's audience-engagement or delivery-adjustment moves. These marks will show how the speaker builds a persuasive oral presentation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three streams of information does the speaker combine in the introduction, and how do they support the proposal?	County health data, National Weather Service temperature records, and library staff information. They establish the need for cooling spaces and show that libraries can serve as practical locations.
2	State the counterclaim the speaker addresses and summarize the rebuttal.	The counterclaim is that residents can stay home instead of the city paying for evening library hours. The rebuttal is that homes may be unsafe during blackouts or without cooling, while extended library hours and bus rides provide an affordable, accessible option.
3	How does the speaker plan to use audience responses after asking about transportation and hours?	The speaker will use responses to emphasize the barrier that the audience identifies as most important.
4	What delivery adjustment would the speaker make if council members seemed confused about cost, and why would it be effective?	The speaker would return to the comparison between extended library hours and new construction and invite a brief question. This directly clarifies the cost issue for the audience.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School board members, our high school should begin at 8:30 a.m., not before sunrise. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 8:30 or later for middle and high schools. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that teenagers ages 13 to 18 need eight to ten hours of sleep each night. A later start will not solve every problem, but it can give students a fairer chance to arrive alert. Some families may worry that changing the schedule will disrupt jobs, athletics, and buses. Those concerns matter, so the district should test one adjusted schedule and publish transportation results before making a permanent change. If listeners begin checking phones, I would ask which schedule conflict concerns them and respond to that concern. Tired students cannot learn fully, cannot participate fully, cannot thrive fully. Ask the board to authorize a one-year later-start pilot.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage's evidence, rebuttal, and audience-adjustment choices. For the script, require 120-150 words and all listed elements, with evidence and reasoning that fit the chosen audience and purpose.