English Language Arts 10-2

Unit 3: Manage ideas and information

One Thursday the school can answer

Only the Thursday bus

- The wide wonder is how the city should fix transit. The class can finish a Thursday question with an edge.
- The inquiry question is whether the school should add a Thursday late bus for downtown practicum students, who finish their work placements at 4:10 and miss the 3:40, the last neighbourhood bus.
- Purpose: give the principal a recommendation. Audience: the principal and student council. Form: a one-page brief.
- Plan: tally who stayed last Thursday, ask the office what one extra bus costs, and read the posted timetable. Two class periods.

From a wide wonder to a question

Too wide
How should the city fix transit?

Inquiry question
Should the school add a Thursday late bus for downtown practicum students who miss the 3:40?

Plan
Count who stayed last Thursday, ask the office what a bus costs, and read the current timetable.

A manageable question

- An inquiry question names a decision, a day, and a group. Thursday, practicum, 3:40.
- Purpose, audience, and form travel with it. Recommend. Principal. One page.
- An inquiry plan lists steps that produce those findings inside the time you have.
- If a step needs a month, modify the plan. Drop the mayor. Keep the tally, the cost, and the timetable.

Key terms

inquiry question

A question narrow enough to investigate, with a purpose and an audience attached.

inquiry plan

The steps, sources, and time limits that will actually be used to answer the question.

Narrowing a question

- Keep the decision word “should”. That word makes the question a plan you can finish.
- Cut city council, weekend service, and other schools. They widen without helping Thursday.
- Keep cost, because a principal recommends a bus only when the price is on the page.
- If the office needs more than two days for the cost, modify: report the gap and use the published school-bus rate.

A short research plan

- Question: Should we add a Thursday late bus for practicum students who miss the 3:40?
- Audience and form: principal and council, one page.
- Steps: tally, office cost, timetable check. Time: two periods.
- Modification ready: if cost is delayed, cite the published rate and say the office has yet to confirm it.

The lunch line

- Wide wonder: how should the school fix food?
- Narrow it to a question about the 12:05 line and students who have class at 12:20.
- Name an audience, a form, and three steps that fit two periods.

Review

- Cover the bus and the lunch plans.
- Wide wonder: how do artists fire pottery?
- Write an inquiry question a class could finish about the six-hour cool and the fifty-minute period, plus one audience and two steps.