Better Than Draft One

See how a writer plans, revises, edits, and changes formats.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5 "Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each change Maya makes to make her message clearer, and circle each editing correction. Number the new approach she tries at the end.

Maya's Garden Message

1. Maya wanted students to visit the school garden on Saturday. Before writing a poster, she listed the important details: the date, the 9:00 start time, the garden gate, and jobs for volunteers. Her first draft said, "Come help our garden." Maya noticed that readers still might wonder when and where to come. She added a heading, "Garden Workday, Saturday at 9:00," and a sentence explaining that volunteers would pull weeds, spread mulch, and plant lettuce.

2. Next, Maya asked her partner Luis to read the poster. Luis understood the date, but he thought "garden gate" was too vague. He also said the list of jobs looked crowded. Maya revised the poster. She changed "garden gate" to "the green gate beside the library." Then she placed the jobs in three bullet points. These changes gave readers a clearer location and made the information easier to scan. Maya kept her original goal, but she improved the way the poster presented it.

3. Finally, Maya read every word aloud. She corrected "volenteers" to "volunteers" and added a period to the last sentence. She wondered whether a poster alone would reach busy families. Instead of simply making the letters larger, she tried a new approach. Maya wrote a short announcement for the school newsletter with the same key details. The newsletter included a link to a sign-up form, so families could choose a job before Saturday. Planning, revising, editing, and trying another format helped Maya communicate clearly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What details did Maya list before she wrote her first draft?

2. How did Maya revise the location so readers would know exactly where to go?

3. What two editing changes did Maya make after reading the poster aloud?

4. What new approach did Maya try, and why was it useful?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a real or imagined school event. List three details you need, write a two-sentence announcement, then rewrite it to make one detail clearer and correct one error. On a separate line, name a new format or approach you could use to reach more people.

ANSWER KEY

Better Than Draft One

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.W.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each change Maya makes to make her message clearer, and circle each editing correction. Number the new approach she tries at the end. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details did Maya list before she wrote her first draft?	**The date, the 9:00 start time, the garden gate, and jobs for volunteers.**
2	How did Maya revise the location so readers would know exactly where to go?	**She changed "garden gate" to "the green gate beside the library."**
3	What two editing changes did Maya make after reading the poster aloud?	**She corrected "volenteers" to "volunteers" and added a period to the last sentence.**
4	What new approach did Maya try, and why was it useful?	**She wrote a school newsletter announcement so busy families could get the details and use a sign-up link to choose a job.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: Book Swap, Tuesday, 3:15 p.m., cafeteria. Draft: "Come to the book swap teusday after school. Bring books to the cafeteria." Revised: "Bring a book to swap at the Book Swap on Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. in the cafeteria." I corrected "teusday" to "Tuesday" and added the exact time. New approach: Record a short morning announcement for students who may not see the paper notice.

Accept any event with relevant planned details, a revised version that improves clarity, and a corrected editing error. The new format or approach should reasonably help the writer reach an audience.