Verb Focus Lens

Track how verb forms shift attention and express possibility.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.3a "Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle passive-voice verb phrases, box each conditional if statement, and underline each base-form verb that follows a recommendation or request. Then label one active-voice sentence A to compare how these choices focus the reader's attention.

Repairing Marshview Trail

1 After a storm damaged the boardwalk at Marshview Park, city engineers closed the trail. Warning signs were placed at each entrance before sunrise. The parks director said that crews planned to replace loose planks once the ground dried. If the trail were reopened too soon, visitors might step into unstable mud. By noon, volunteers had carried measuring tools to the marsh edge, while a drone photographed the damaged path from above. The report could guide the repair plan.

2 At the planning meeting, engineers compared the drone images with the volunteers' measurements. The safety officer recommended that the gate remain locked until every support be tested. Some residents asked whether repairs could be finished by Saturday. The director replied that, if the supply truck arrived late, the opening would be delayed. Meanwhile, a local carpenter inspected the wood, and several cracked planks were labeled for removal. The team chose recycled plastic lumber because it resists moisture better than untreated wood. A new handrail was also included in the plan.

3 On Monday, the supply truck arrived before noon, so the schedule changed. Crews installed the new planks, and the old boards were taken to a recycling center. The director asked that visitors use the marked detour until an inspector approved the trail. If the final test failed, the city would keep the gate closed and revise the plan. At sunset, the inspector examined each support. The trail was approved for reopening the next morning. A notice appeared on the city's website, and volunteers shared the detour map at nearby schools.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which verb phrase in paragraph 1 shows passive voice in the sentence about warning signs? What detail does this voice choice leave unnamed?

2. Compare "city engineers closed the trail" with "Warning signs were placed." Which sentence emphasizes the actor, and which emphasizes the action or result?

3. What possible result is described if the supply truck arrived late? How does the wording show that this result is uncertain?

4. What verb follows "recommended that" in paragraph 2? What does this subjunctive form express?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about an original school or community project. Use one active-voice sentence, one passive-voice sentence, one conditional sentence with if and would, and one subjunctive sentence that gives a recommendation or request using a base verb after that.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Focus Lens

GRADE 8 · L.8.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle passive-voice verb phrases, box each conditional if statement, and underline each base-form verb that follows a recommendation or request. Then label one active-voice sentence A to compare how these choices focus the reader's attention. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which verb phrase in paragraph 1 shows passive voice in the sentence about warning signs? What detail does this voice choice leave unnamed?	**"were placed"; it leaves unnamed the person or group that placed the signs.**
2	Compare "city engineers closed the trail" with "Warning signs were placed." Which sentence emphasizes the actor, and which emphasizes the action or result?	**"City engineers closed the trail" emphasizes the actor, city engineers. "Warning signs were placed" emphasizes the signs being placed.**
3	What possible result is described if the supply truck arrived late? How does the wording show that this result is uncertain?	**The opening would be delayed. The if clause and "would be delayed" show that the result depends on whether the truck arrives late.**
4	What verb follows "recommended that" in paragraph 2? What does this subjunctive form express?	**"remain"; it expresses the safety officer's recommendation that the gate stay locked.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The art club painted a mural beside the library entrance. A weatherproof coating was added after the paint dried. If heavy rain threatened the mural, the club would cover it with a tarp. The librarian requested that students keep the walkway clear during the work.

Accept equivalent explanations of how active voice highlights a doer and passive voice highlights an action or result. For Part 3, accept any original four-sentence response that correctly includes all four required verb choices.