Marks That Matter

Read a model text and trace the choices that make its meaning clear.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.2 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every proper noun, circle each comma that separates items in a series, and box three longer words whose spelling you want to study. Your marks will show how conventions help readers identify names, follow details, and trust information.

Apollo 11: Precision on the Page

1 On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 lunar module Eagle landed on the Moon. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin worked inside the small craft while Michael Collins orbited above in Columbia. During the mission, engineers in Houston, Texas, tracked fuel, oxygen, and communication signals. Armstrong later described the landing as a tense moment because the computer issued several alarms. The crew's careful preparation mattered. Their equipment, training, and procedures helped them respond quickly when the landing site appeared rougher than expected by the astronauts below.

2 Months before launch, NASA workers tested the spacecraft at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. They checked valves, cables, switches, and batteries, then recorded each result. A single error could affect navigation, electricity, or life-support systems. At Mission Control, flight directors listened to reports from specialists in propulsion, medicine, and weather. The work required precision: teams had to communicate clearly, document changes, and follow checklists. Because thousands of people contributed, the mission depended on shared rules as much as individual expertise. Those rules made complex information easier to read and act upon.

3 Today, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum displays objects connected to Apollo 11, including Collins's spacesuit and a command module called Columbia. Museum labels must be accurate, concise, and easy to scan. A visitor may pause at a display, read a date, and compare several artifacts before moving on. Curators therefore check names, measurements, and quotations with care. They also review capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, since a small mistake can confuse readers or weaken trust. Clear conventions do more than make writing look polished; they help preserve the details of a historical record.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the full name of the museum in paragraph 3, using the same capitalization as the passage.

2. What punctuation mark follows the word "precision" in paragraph 2? Explain what it introduces.

3. Why are commas used in the list "valves, cables, switches, and batteries" in paragraph 2?

4. Copy the correctly spelled word in paragraph 3 that means statements repeated from a source.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly three sentences, 45 to 60 words, for a museum label about an invention or scientific discovery not named in the passage. Include one correctly capitalized proper noun, one colon that introduces a list, a comma-separated series of three items, and the correctly spelled words "measurement" and "quotation."

ANSWER KEY

Marks That Matter

HIGH SCHOOL · L.9-10.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every proper noun, circle each comma that separates items in a series, and box three longer words whose spelling you want to study. Your marks will show how conventions help readers identify names, follow details, and trust information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the full name of the museum in paragraph 3, using the same capitalization as the passage.	**Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum**
2	What punctuation mark follows the word "precision" in paragraph 2? Explain what it introduces.	**A colon. It introduces the explanation of what teams had to do: communicate clearly, document changes, and follow checklists.**
3	Why are commas used in the list "valves, cables, switches, and batteries" in paragraph 2?	**The commas separate four items in a series.**
4	Copy the correctly spelled word in paragraph 3 that means statements repeated from a source.	**quotations**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1928, Alexander Fleming noticed that mold had killed bacteria in a Petri dish. His discovery led to penicillin, a medicine that changed medical treatment for bacterial infections worldwide. At the display, visitors see three clues: a Petri dish, a measurement chart, and a quotation from Fleming's notebook.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately identify the function of the colon and commas. For Part 3, check the word count, three-sentence structure, required conventions, and accurate capitalization and spelling.