

Broadcast Before Snow

Trace how an opening problem develops through a narrator's choices.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3a "Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that establish the narrator or another character, circle the opening problem, and number five major events in order to trace how the situation develops.

The Locked Studio

- ① At 7:12 on Monday morning, I stood outside the locked door of the school radio station with a paper cup of coffee and a problem I had created. The principal was scheduled to announce that school would close because of the winter storm in eighteen minutes, but I had promised to run the broadcast alone for the first time. Through the narrow window, I could see the red ON AIR sign blinking above the empty control board. My partner, Lena, was usually the one who remembered passwords, volume levels, and emergency procedures. Now her bus was stuck behind a jackknifed truck, and my phone showed no new messages.
- ② I tried the handle anyway, then pressed my ear against the door. Inside, the studio was silent except for the low hum of the equipment. I called Lena, but the call went straight to voicemail. At 7:15, the hallway speaker crackled with the principal's voice asking whether the station was ready. My stomach tightened. If I said no, students waiting at bus stops might not hear the closing soon enough. I remembered that the custodian kept a master key in the front office, so I ran downstairs, dodging backpacks and wet boots. Mrs. Ortiz looked up from her desk as I explained.
- ③ She handed me the key, but the second hand on the clock above her desk seemed to jump faster as I raced back upstairs. The door opened at 7:18. I switched on the console, found the announcement script, and began reading while my voice shook. Halfway through the message, Lena burst into the studio, snow melting on her coat. She silently pointed to a slider I had missed, and the music faded beneath the principal's recorded announcement. When the final words ended, I looked through the window at students moving toward buses. Lena gave me a thumbs-up, and I finally let out the breath I had been holding.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem is introduced in the first paragraph, and why is it urgent?

2 What point of view tells this story? Give two details that show how the narrator personally experiences the situation.

3 List three major events from the middle of the passage in the order they happen. Explain how these events move the narrator toward solving the problem.

4 What outcome resolves the immediate problem? What final detail shows the narrator's reaction to that outcome?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 120 to 150 word first-person scene about a time-sensitive problem. Establish the narrator and another character, introduce the problem by the second sentence, and show at least three events in a clear sequence that leads to an outcome.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish the narrator or another character, circle the opening problem, and number five major events in order to trace how the situation develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem is introduced in the first paragraph, and why is it urgent?	The narrator is locked out of the radio station before a school-closing announcement must air. It is urgent because students at bus stops need to hear the news soon.
2	What point of view tells this story? Give two details that show how the narrator personally experiences the situation.	It is told in first person. The narrator says "I stood," "My stomach tightened," and describes a shaking voice and a held breath.
3	List three major events from the middle of the passage in the order they happen. Explain how these events move the narrator toward solving the problem.	The narrator tries the locked door and calls Lena, hears that the principal is waiting, and runs to the front office for the master key. These events lead the narrator from being stuck to gaining access to the studio.
4	What outcome resolves the immediate problem? What final detail shows the narrator's reaction to that outcome?	The school-closing announcement is broadcast after Lena helps with a missed slider. The narrator finally lets out the breath that had been held.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At 3:40, I found the auditorium dark and the seats already filling for the debate tournament. I was supposed to introduce our team, but the note cards with every speaker's name were missing from my folder. Marcus, our captain, searched beneath the podium while I checked the hallway. First, I asked the stage manager whether anyone had turned in a stack of blue cards. She shook her head, then pointed toward the lobby, where a gust from the open doors had scattered papers beside the ticket table. Next, Marcus and I gathered the cards and put them in order. When the judge called our school, I stepped to the microphone with thirty seconds left. Marcus stood beside the curtain, holding up the final card when I needed it.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the opening problem, first-person point of view, and event sequence when supported by details from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied scenarios that meet the word range and clearly establish a narrator, another character, a timely problem, and a connected sequence of events.