Night Light Choices

Track how word choice and sentence design shape an informational message.

ELA.7.R.2.3 "Explain how an author establishes and achieves purpose(s) through diction and syntax."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two words or phrases that show harmful effects, and circle two sentences whose repetition, contrast, or short length adds emphasis. In the margin, write what each mark helps the author make readers understand or do.

When the Night Stays Bright

1 At dusk, many towns brighten their streets, parks, and buildings with electric light. These lamps can help people see, but poorly aimed light also travels upward and outward. It washes over bedroom windows, hides faint stars, and creates a glowing dome above the town. Astronomers call this light pollution. Unlike smoke from a factory, the glow may seem harmless because it arrives quietly, one porch bulb, one billboard, and one parking lot at a time.

2 That steady glow changes more than the view. Nocturnal animals use darkness as a signal. Baby sea turtles, for example, usually move toward the brighter horizon over the ocean after hatching. Lights from nearby buildings can pull them inland instead. Migrating birds can circle brightly lit towers until they become exhausted. People are affected, too. Bright outdoor lights shining into homes can interrupt sleep. The problem is not light itself. The problem is light sent where it is not needed.

3 Communities do not have to choose between safety and the night sky. A shield on a streetlamp can direct light down onto a sidewalk, where walkers need it, rather than up toward clouds. Warmer-colored bulbs can reduce some harm to wildlife, and timers can switch off lights after a building closes. These are small changes, yet their results can spread across a neighborhood. A darker sky can reveal stars again. More important, carefully placed light can protect sleep, guide animals, and help towns use less electricity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What purpose does the author have in the first paragraph? Explain how the phrase "one porch bulb, one billboard, and one parking lot at a time" helps achieve that purpose.

2. How does the author's diction in paragraph 2 create concern about unnecessary outdoor light? Use two words or phrases from the paragraph in your answer.

3. Why does the author repeat the sentence pattern "The problem is ..." near the end of paragraph 2?

4. How do the contrast and short sentences in paragraph 3 help the author achieve a purpose? Use one example of each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence notice that encourages students to reduce cafeteria food waste. Include at least two precise words that show an effect and one syntax choice, a short sentence, repetition, or a contrast, then name the purpose and syntax choice you used.

ANSWER KEY

Night Light Choices

GRADE 7 · ELA.7.R.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two words or phrases that show harmful effects, and circle two sentences whose repetition, contrast, or short length adds emphasis. In the margin, write what each mark helps the author make readers understand or do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What purpose does the author have in the first paragraph? Explain how the phrase "one porch bulb, one billboard, and one parking lot at a time" helps achieve that purpose.	**The author aims to show that light pollution can build gradually and go unnoticed. The repeated list of individual light sources makes the problem seem quiet, common, and cumulative.**
2	How does the author's diction in paragraph 2 create concern about unnecessary outdoor light? Use two words or phrases from the paragraph in your answer.	**Words and phrases such as "pull them inland," "exhausted," and "interrupt sleep" show harmful results, helping the author create concern.**
3	Why does the author repeat the sentence pattern "The problem is ..." near the end of paragraph 2?	**The repetition emphasizes and clarifies the main claim that light is useful, but light directed where it is unnecessary causes the problem.**
4	How do the contrast and short sentences in paragraph 3 help the author achieve a purpose? Use one example of each.	**The contrast "do not have to choose between safety and the night sky" answers a possible objection. Short sentences such as "A darker sky can reveal stars again" make the benefits clear and memorable, supporting the author's purpose of encouraging better lighting choices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Every discarded apple and unopened carton adds to the heavy bags carried to the dumpster. Food is not trash. Take only what you will eat, and save the rest from becoming waste. Purpose: persuade students to reduce food waste. Syntax choice: the short sentence emphasizes the main message.

Accept responses that correctly connect specific diction or syntax from the passage to a stated purpose, such as informing readers about harms or persuading communities to use light carefully. For Part 3, accept varied topics and wording if the response has three notice sentences, precise effect-focused diction, a clear syntax choice, and an accurate explanation.