Fix It First

Trace rhetorical choices in a community editorial.

ELA.9.R.3 "Reading Across Genres"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline repeated words or phrases, circle comparisons and rhetorical questions, and box parallel lists. These choices reveal how the writer makes repair seem worthwhile.

Mend Before You Replace

1 Every Saturday, our town sends a small parade of broken lamps, torn backpacks, and silent radios toward the landfill. Most of these objects are not useless. They are paused stories, waiting for a new cord, a stitched seam, or a tightened screw. A monthly repair café at the library could bring neighbors together with tools and practical knowledge. It would not promise that every object can be saved. It would offer a sensible first step before replacement. When we repair an item, we keep materials in use and learn how the things around us work.

2 A repair café is more than a table of screwdrivers. It is a workshop where a retired electrician can show a student why a plug fails, and a skilled sewer can help a parent mend a coat. Participants can test, clean, fasten, and patch. They can also share instructions, swap spare parts, and prevent usable goods from becoming waste. Why should a loose button or worn battery decide an object's whole future? By treating repair as a common skill rather than a private mystery, the café can make careful choices feel possible.

3 Some people may say that repairs take too long or cost more than a new product. That concern is real, especially when an item is badly damaged. Yet replacement is not always quick, cheap, or environmentally simple. A repair café can help residents decide when to fix, when to donate, and when to recycle. It can save a lamp from the trash, save a family money, and save a useful skill from disappearing. Let us begin with one afternoon each month, because a town that mends its belongings also strengthens its connections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the phrase "paused stories" compare broken objects to, and how does this comparison support the writer's argument?

2. How does the rhetorical question about a loose button or worn battery strengthen the writer's point?

3. Why does the writer repeat the verb "save" in paragraph 3?

4. How does the writer address the concern that repairs may take too long or cost too much?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence argument for a school or community change. Include one comparison, one rhetorical question, and one parallel list to make your position convincing.

ANSWER KEY

Fix It First

GRADE 9 · ELA.9.R.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline repeated words or phrases, circle comparisons and rhetorical questions, and box parallel lists. These choices reveal how the writer makes repair seem worthwhile. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the phrase "paused stories" compare broken objects to, and how does this comparison support the writer's argument?	**It compares broken objects to stories that have stopped temporarily. It suggests that repair can give useful objects another chance.**
2	How does the rhetorical question about a loose button or worn battery strengthen the writer's point?	**It leads readers to question whether a small problem should cause an entire object to be thrown away.**
3	Why does the writer repeat the verb "save" in paragraph 3?	**The repetition emphasizes that repair can protect objects, family money, and practical skills.**
4	How does the writer address the concern that repairs may take too long or cost too much?	**The writer admits that the concern can be real, then explains that replacement is not always easy or inexpensive and that the café can help people choose the best option.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students should have access to a quiet study room after school. For many students, a crowded bus ride home is like trying to read beside a running lawn mower. How can homework receive careful attention when the only workspace is noisy? The room could provide tables, chargers, and a place to plan, revise, and ask questions.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect each rhetorical device to the writer's purpose. For Part 3, check for four sentences, a clear position, a comparison, a rhetorical question, and a parallel list.