Purpose Shapes Stories

See how purpose and genre shape what a writer includes.

10.P.AC.3.b "Apply knowledge of how mode and genre impact what kinds of ideas and information are included in texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each of the three texts described, underline its purpose, circle one kind of information it includes, and box one kind of information it leaves out.

Three Views of Pine Ridge

1. When a fast-moving wildfire approached the fictional town of Pine Ridge, three writers described the same afternoon in very different ways. A county emergency alert began with the evacuation zone, the time residents had to leave, and the roads that remained open. Its purpose was immediate safety, so it used short commands and omitted personal stories. The alert did not explain every cause of the fire or describe the smoke over the hills. Those details would slow readers who needed to act at once quickly.

2. That evening, a local news report gave readers a broader account. It identified the fire's location, quoted the fire chief, and explained that dry grass and strong winds increased the danger. The report also stated how many homes were under evacuation orders and noted that investigators had not yet determined the fire's cause. Because news reporting aims to inform the public accurately, the writer included attributed sources and uncertainty. It avoided guessing about damage or presenting one resident's feelings as the whole community's experience without evidence.

3. Later, a student wrote a personal narrative about leaving Pine Ridge. She described her dog shaking beneath the kitchen table, ash landing on her backpack, and her father's quiet hands on the steering wheel. Rather than listing every open road or quoting officials, she focused on one family's fear and relief when they reached a shelter. Her account could help readers imagine the event, but it could not replace the alert or news report. A narrative selects memories and sensory details to create an individual perspective.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name one kind of information the emergency alert includes and one kind it leaves out. Explain how those choices serve its purpose.

2. Why does the news report quote the fire chief and state that the cause is not yet known?

3. Which text would be most useful to a resident deciding which road to take out of town? Use information from the passage to explain.

4. How does the personal narrative give readers a different understanding of the wildfire than the news report does?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community event other than the Pine Ridge wildfire. Write a 70-90-word emergency alert, news brief, or personal narrative about it. After your text, add one sentence naming a detail you left out because it did not serve your genre's purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Purpose Shapes Stories

GRADE 10 · 10.P.AC.3.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each of the three texts described, underline its purpose, circle one kind of information it includes, and box one kind of information it leaves out. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name one kind of information the emergency alert includes and one kind it leaves out. Explain how those choices serve its purpose.	**It includes action information such as evacuation zones, departure times, and open roads. It leaves out personal stories and fuller descriptions because readers need to act quickly and safely.**
2	Why does the news report quote the fire chief and state that the cause is not yet known?	**A news report needs accurate, verified information. Quoting a source and admitting uncertainty prevent the writer from guessing.**
3	Which text would be most useful to a resident deciding which road to take out of town? Use information from the passage to explain.	**The emergency alert would be most useful because it tells residents which roads remain open and gives immediate evacuation instructions.**
4	How does the personal narrative give readers a different understanding of the wildfire than the news report does?	**The narrative gives one family's sensory and emotional experience, while the news report gives broader verified facts, sources, and community information.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

News brief: On Tuesday, the Eastview Robotics Club won the regional design challenge with a solar-powered water filter. Judges awarded the team top honors for testing the filter with muddy water and explaining how communities could use inexpensive materials. Club adviser Ms. Chen said the students revised their model after two early trials failed. The team will present its design at the state showcase in May. Competition organizers said twelve schools entered. I left out individual students' nervous feelings because a news brief should emphasize verified results and sources.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a genre's purpose to the information selected or omitted. For Part 3, accept any appropriate genre if the details, style, and stated omission fit its purpose.