Voice Focus

Track whether a short text keeps its voice.

11.L.GC.2.c "Maintain consistent use of active or passive voice throughout a text, as determined by the purpose, audience, and discipline. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

ONE CONSISTENT VOICE

The writer keeps one voice across the text, all active or all passive. Active voice names the doer first, while passive voice puts the receiver first.

The violinist tuned her instrument. She began the recital.

UNEXPLAINED VOICE SHIFT

The writer switches between active and passive voice without a clear purpose. The change can make the text's focus jump.

The gardeners trimmed the hedges. The gate was locked by the gardeners.

1 SORT

8 items

For each text, circle STEADY or SHIFTED, then choose two item numbers and explain which voice pattern shows your choice.

1.	The curator arranged the artifacts by century. She recorded each label in the catalog.	STEADY SHIFTED
2.	The bridge was inspected before dawn. Its cables were measured by engineers.	STEADY SHIFTED
3.	The committee approved the proposal. The final report was mailed by the chair to every member.	STEADY SHIFTED
4.	New seedlings were planted along the trail. They were watered each morning by volunteers.	STEADY SHIFTED
5.	Researchers collected water samples at six sites. The results were later analyzed by the team.	STEADY SHIFTED
6.	The technician calibrated the sensor. A second test was completed by the technician.	STEADY SHIFTED
7.	Rina drafted the budget. She presented it to the council.	STEADY SHIFTED
8.	The storm damaged several roofs. Emergency repairs were made by local crews.	STEADY SHIFTED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new STEADY text with two sentences, then write one new SHIFTED text with two sentences.

STEADY _____

SHIFTED _____

CHALLENGE

Revise one SHIFTED text from Part 1 so it uses one voice throughout, then write one sentence explaining why active or passive voice fits your purpose.

ANSWER KEY # Voice Focus

GRADE 11 · 11.L.GC.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The curator arranged the artifacts by century. She recorded each label in the catalog.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use active voice, with the curator as the doer.
2	The bridge was inspected before dawn. Its cables were measured by engineers.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use passive voice.
3	The committee approved the proposal. The final report was mailed by the chair to every member.	**SHIFTED**	The first sentence is active, and the second is passive without a clear reason to change focus.
4	New seedlings were planted along the trail. They were watered each morning by volunteers.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use passive voice.
5	Researchers collected water samples at six sites. The results were later analyzed by the team.	**SHIFTED**	The text shifts from active voice to passive voice.
6	The technician calibrated the sensor. A second test was completed by the technician.	**SHIFTED**	The same doer is named, but the text shifts from active to passive voice.
7	Rina drafted the budget. She presented it to the council.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use active voice, with Rina as the doer.
8	The storm damaged several roofs. Emergency repairs were made by local crews.	**SHIFTED**	The first sentence is active, and the second is passive.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STEADY**: The chef measured the spices. She stirred the sauce.
- **SHIFTED**: The photographer edited the images. The exhibit was arranged by the photographer.

Challenge: The committee approved the proposal. The chair mailed the final report to every member. I chose active voice because it clearly identifies the people who performed each action.

Accept a student's explanation when it correctly identifies active voice, passive voice, or a shift between them. In the challenge, accept either a fully active or fully passive revision if the student gives a logical purpose for the choice.