Voice With Purpose

Sort passages by the voice they maintain from start to finish.

12.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 _____

ACTIVE VOICE THROUGHOUT

In active voice, the subject does the action. Use it throughout a passage when you want to emphasize the actor.

The botanist classified the seedlings. She recorded their growth in a notebook.

PASSIVE VOICE THROUGHOUT

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it throughout a passage when the action or receiver matters more than the actor.

The seedlings were classified by the botanist. Their growth was recorded in a notebook.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each passage, then choose two passages and explain how the subjects show the same voice in both sentences.

1.	Researchers measured the river's acidity. They compared the results with last year's data.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
2.	The final report was approved by the committee. It was released to the public on Friday.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
3.	A warning was posted near the trail. The area was closed after heavy rain.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
4.	The city council revised the zoning map. It scheduled a public hearing.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
5.	The clinic treated the injured hawk. Staff released it two days later.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
6.	The bridge will be inspected tomorrow. Findings will be submitted by noon.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
7.	The archive acquired the letters. Its staff digitized each page.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
8.	The foundation declined the funding proposal. It requested a revised plan.	ACTIVE PASSIVE

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 two-sentence passage in ACTIVE voice and one new two-sentence passage in PASSIVE voice.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-sentence announcement that uses only passive voice. Keep the actor unnamed in all three sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Voice With Purpose

GRADE 12 · 12.L.GC.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Researchers measured the river's acidity. They compared the results with last year's data.	**ACTIVE**	The subjects, Researchers and They, perform the actions.
2	The final report was approved by the committee. It was released to the public on Friday.	**PASSIVE**	The report receives both actions.
3	A warning was posted near the trail. The area was closed after heavy rain.	**PASSIVE**	The warning and area receive the actions.
4	The city council revised the zoning map. It scheduled a public hearing.	**ACTIVE**	The city council performs both actions.
5	The clinic treated the injured hawk. Staff released it two days later.	**ACTIVE**	The clinic and Staff perform the actions.
6	The bridge will be inspected tomorrow. Findings will be submitted by noon.	**PASSIVE**	The bridge and Findings receive the actions.
7	The archive acquired the letters. Its staff digitized each page.	**ACTIVE**	The archive and Its staff perform the actions.
8	The foundation declined the funding proposal. It requested a revised plan.	**ACTIVE**	The foundation performs both actions.

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)

- **ACTIVE**: The orchestra rehearsed the finale. Its conductor adjusted the tempo.
- **PASSIVE**: The finale was rehearsed by the orchestra. The tempo was adjusted by its conductor.

Challenge: The north entrance will be secured at 6 p.m. New identification cards will be issued on Tuesday. Questions may be submitted through the website.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept proof responses that accurately identify whether the subject performs or receives the action in both sentences of a chosen passage. For Part 3 and the challenge, check that every sentence maintains the required voice.