Voice Changes Focus

Sort sentences by the voice that shapes their emphasis.

12.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Apply understanding of syntax to comprehend, analyze, evaluate, craft, and reshape sentences to achieve desired effects."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. Use it when you want to emphasize the actor.

The violinist surprised the audience with an encore.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it when you want to emphasize the receiver or when the actor is less important.

An ancient map was discovered beneath loose floorboards.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle its voice, then choose two item numbers and explain how the subject's role helped you decide.

1. The committee approved the revised policy. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. A sudden frost damaged the orchard. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The final exhibit was curated by student volunteers. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. Engineers will test the prototype tomorrow. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The mural was restored after the storm. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The scholarship was awarded to Lena by the foundation. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The editor questioned the source's reliability. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The board rejected the proposal. 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 Active Voice sentence and one new Passive Voice sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one Active Voice sentence from Part 1, rewrite it in Passive Voice, then explain in one sentence how the change shifts the emphasis.

ANSWER KEY

Voice Changes Focus

GRADE 12 · 12.L.GC.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee approved the revised policy.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, committee, performs the action, approved.
2	A sudden frost damaged the orchard.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, frost, performs the action, damaged.
3	The final exhibit was curated by student volunteers.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, exhibit, receives the action, was curated.
4	Engineers will test the prototype tomorrow.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, engineers, performs the action, will test.
5	The mural was restored after the storm.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, mural, receives the action, was restored.
6	The scholarship was awarded to Lena by the foundation.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, scholarship, receives the action, was awarded.
7	The editor questioned the source's reliability.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, editor, performs the action, questioned.
8	The board rejected the proposal.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, board, performs the action, rejected.

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 difficult passage.
- **PASSIVE**: The verdict was announced after noon.

Challenge: The revised policy was approved by the committee. This version emphasizes the policy rather than the committee.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify whether the subject performs or receives the action.