

One Lake, Three Lenses

How purpose shapes the details a genre uses.

12.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 Underline one detail in each paragraph that belongs especially in that genre, then circle the words that reveal the writer's purpose.

Great Salt Lake Through Three Genres

- ① Field Report, Great Salt Lake: During the late summer survey, researchers recorded shorelines farther from the old marina than they had been in earlier photographs. Great Salt Lake has no outlet, so water leaves mainly through evaporation. When incoming river water declines, the lake level can fall and expose more lakebed. The report lists salinity readings, wind direction, and the locations of newly dry areas. It also notes that brine shrimp and flies support millions of migratory birds. Its measured observations help scientists compare conditions across seasons and decide what additional data to collect.
- ② Personal Narrative, Great Salt Lake: I arrived before sunrise with my grandmother, who remembered swimming near a dock that now stood above dry, cracked ground. Pelicans crossed the pink sky, and the wind pushed white salt against my shoes. She pointed toward the distant water and said the shoreline had changed during her lifetime. I did not measure salinity or map the exposed lakebed. Instead, I described the surprise of seeing a familiar place altered, then explained why I wanted to learn how river use, drought, and heat can change the lake.
- ③ Editorial, Save Water for Great Salt Lake: State leaders should protect more water for the lake by improving irrigation systems, leasing water voluntarily, and enforcing existing water rules. A shrinking lake threatens bird habitat and can leave dust-prone lakebed exposed, affecting nearby communities. Some farmers may worry that conservation will reduce their income. Any policy should therefore include funding and technical support, rather than simply shifting costs onto them. This editorial does not retell one visitor's morning or list every survey measurement. It selects reasons, acknowledges a concern, and ends by asking readers to contact elected officials about water policy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the field report's purpose shape the kinds of information included in paragraph 1? Give two types of information it includes.

2 Identify one detail from paragraph 2 that fits a personal narrative especially well. Explain why it would be less useful in a field report.

3 How does paragraph 3 use the concern about farmers to strengthen its editorial argument?

4 What two kinds of material does the editorial say it does not include? Why does leaving them out fit the editorial's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a school or community concern. Write two mini-texts of 45 to 60 words each about the same concern: a field report and an editorial. Make each genre include details that fit its purpose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that belongs especially in that genre, then circle the words that reveal the writer's purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the field report's purpose shape the kinds of information included in paragraph 1? Give two types of information it includes.	It includes measured, observable information, such as salinity readings, wind direction, dry-area locations, shoreline changes, and bird-food relationships.
2	Identify one detail from paragraph 2 that fits a personal narrative especially well. Explain why it would be less useful in a field report.	The grandmother's memory of swimming near the dock, or the narrator's surprise, fits a personal narrative because it gives personal experience and feeling rather than data for scientific comparison.
3	How does paragraph 3 use the concern about farmers to strengthen its editorial argument?	It acknowledges that farmers may fear lost income, then argues that policy should include funding and technical support. This presents the argument as more balanced and practical.
4	What two kinds of material does the editorial say it does not include? Why does leaving them out fit the editorial's purpose?	It does not retell one visitor's morning or list every survey measurement. Leaving them out keeps the focus on reasons for action and a call for readers to contact officials.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Field Report: On May 6, the school garden's rain barrel was empty by 1:00 p.m. Soil in three raised beds measured dry, while the shade bed remained damp. The gardening club recorded no rainfall during the previous seven days. These observations suggest that watering needs differ across the garden. Editorial: Our school should install a second rain barrel and mulch the sunny beds. The first barrel's empty condition and the dry soil show that the garden needs a better plan. Although supplies cost money, conserving water can lower waste. Students should ask the principal to fund these improvements.

Accept evidence-based explanations that connect a genre's purpose or audience to its selected details. For Part 3, accept varied concerns if each 45 to 60 word text uses appropriate genre features and does not merely repeat the same information.