Same Fire, Different Forms

Analyze how each genre arranges information for its purpose.

12.P.AC.3.c "Apply knowledge of how mode and genre impact how ideas and information are structured and arranged in texts. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that explains why its arrangement fits its genre. Circle the phrase in each paragraph that names the genre's purpose or effect on readers.

Telling the Cuyahoga River Fire

1. On June 22, 1969, oil and debris on Ohio's Cuyahoga River caught fire near Cleveland. A *news report* about the event would begin with that immediate fact, then identify the location and explain that a passing train may have sparked the blaze. Later sentences would add background, including the river's long history of industrial pollution and the limited damage from this brief fire. This descending order serves readers who need the essential information first. Quotations from firefighters or city officials would appear after the lead, supporting the report without delaying its main news.

2. An *editorial* written after the fire could arrange the same facts differently. It might open with a judgment: Cleveland and federal leaders must stop treating river pollution as routine. The writer could cite the fire as evidence, connect it to damaged waterways elsewhere, and answer an objection that the blaze was small. Instead of placing details by urgency, the editorial would build an argument toward a demand for stricter enforcement and public investment. Its ending might urge readers to contact officials, because persuasion, not neutral reporting, is the genre's purpose.

3. A *personal memoir* from a Cleveland resident might begin with a remembered smell along the riverbank, then move through one person's day of hearing about the fire. The writer could select sensory details and reflections rather than explain every cause. Near the end, the memoir might look back on change, noting that the federal Clean Water Act became law in 1972. Its chronological, intimate arrangement helps readers experience how pollution shaped an ordinary life, while leaving a full policy analysis to another genre or source for the reader.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which information would the news report place first, and why would it use that order?

2. How would the editorial use the fire differently from the news report?

3. What does the memoir choose to include and leave out? How does that choice shape the reader's experience?

4. Compare the organization of the news report and the memoir. How does each arrangement match its genre's purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an environmental problem not mentioned in the passage. Write a 90 to 110 word editorial paragraph that opens with an underlined claim, numbers two reasons or examples that build the argument, and ends with a specific action readers or leaders should take.

ANSWER KEY

Same Fire, Different Forms

GRADE 12 · 12.P.AC.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that explains why its arrangement fits its genre. Circle the phrase in each paragraph that names the genre's purpose or effect on readers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which information would the news report place first, and why would it use that order?	**It would place the immediate fact of the fire first, followed by the location and possible cause, so readers receive essential information quickly.**
2	How would the editorial use the fire differently from the news report?	**The editorial would use the fire as evidence for its claim that leaders must address pollution, then build toward a demand for action.**
3	What does the memoir choose to include and leave out? How does that choice shape the reader's experience?	**It includes sensory details, reflections, and one person's experience while leaving out a full explanation of every cause or policy. This creates an intimate, chronological experience for the reader.**
4	Compare the organization of the news report and the memoir. How does each arrangement match its genre's purpose?	**The news report uses descending order, giving essential facts before background, because its purpose is to inform quickly. The memoir moves through a personal experience and later reflection, because its purpose is to help readers experience the event personally.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should install motion-sensor lights in empty classrooms. 1. Teachers and custodians often find lights burning long after students leave, wasting electricity that the school pays for. 2. Sensors turn lights off when rooms are vacant, yet let students work normally when they enter. Although installation costs money, lower energy bills can recover part of that expense over time. It would also reduce the need for adults to check switches. The school board should fund a pilot in one hallway this year, measure the savings, and expand the system if it works.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect each genre's arrangement to its purpose and audience. For the editorial, accept a clear claim, two logically arranged supporting reasons or examples, and a specific concluding action within the required length.