

Reading With Purpose

Trace how purpose shapes evidence, language, and use.

12.T.C.1.a “Use knowledge of texts’ distinct disciplinary, personal, or technical purposes to aid comprehension. (1)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each paragraph that reveal its purpose. In the margin, write a three-to-five-word purpose statement for each paragraph, using the evidence to guide your reading.

Three Views of Rising Water

- ① At 7:15 a.m., the Harbor Point field team recorded water at 1.2 meters above the pier’s chart datum. The reading came from a pressure sensor mounted beneath Dock 4, which sends measurements every six minutes. Because the sensor can drift after storms, technician Elena Ruiz compared its output with a staff gauge and noted a difference of 0.03 meter. Her log recommends recalibrating the instrument before the next spring tide. The log uses times, units, procedures, and uncertainty because maintenance crews need reliable data to decide when the dock can safely reopen.
- ② The county planning office used those measurements differently in its annual shoreline report. It combined tide records, property maps, and a 2050 sea-level projection to identify blocks where repeated flooding could damage roads and homes. The report does not promise that every projection will occur exactly as modeled. Instead, it asks the county commission to rank drainage projects, reserve land for wetlands, and revise building rules in the most exposed areas. Its maps and projected ranges help officials compare choices affecting many residents, even when future conditions remain uncertain.
- ③ After reading the report, Harbor Point resident Malik Johnson wrote a letter to the local newspaper. He described carrying his daughter through knee-deep water after a storm because their apartment’s elevator had stopped. He did not calculate a projection or recommend a specific engineering design. Instead, he asked readers to see flooding as a daily burden on neighbors who cannot easily leave, repair property, or miss work. By telling one family’s experience in vivid detail, Johnson sought attention and empathy, hoping public concern would influence the commission’s choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the primary purpose of the first paragraph, and which details show that purpose?

2 Why does Ruiz include the sensor’s possible drift and the comparison with a staff gauge?

3 How should county commissioners use the shoreline report differently from the field log?

4 Why would Johnson’s letter not replace the shoreline report when commissioners make decisions?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a realistic change to a public place, such as a library entrance, park, bus stop, or school hallway. Write two 40-to-55-word mini-texts about it: a technical note for decision makers and a personal message from someone affected by the change. Use details that fit each purpose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each paragraph that reveal its purpose. In the margin, write a three-to-five-word purpose statement for each paragraph, using the evidence to guide your reading. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the primary purpose of the first paragraph, and which details show that purpose?	Its purpose is to provide reliable technical information for dock maintenance and safety decisions. Times, measurements, sensor procedures, and the 0.03-meter difference show this purpose.
2	Why does Ruiz include the sensor's possible drift and the comparison with a staff gauge?	She needs to show how reliable the measurement is before crews use it to make a safety decision about reopening the dock.
3	How should county commissioners use the shoreline report differently from the field log?	They should use the report to compare and rank long-term policy choices, such as drainage, wetlands, and building rules. They would use the field log for a specific operational safety decision about the dock.
4	Why would Johnson's letter not replace the shoreline report when commissioners make decisions?	The letter gives a vivid personal account that builds empathy and shows human impact, but the report provides maps, projections, and comparisons needed to evaluate policy options affecting many areas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Technical note: On May 3, the library's east entrance ramp measured a 9.4 percent slope over its lower twelve feet. Rainwater pooled at the threshold for 18 minutes after a simulated storm. Install a drain grate and revise the ramp to an accessible slope before reopening the entrance. Personal message: I used the east entrance with my father after his surgery, and the steep ramp made him stop twice to catch his breath. When water gathered at the door, his cane slipped on the wet concrete. I want the repair completed because a library should not make visitors choose between safety and access.

Accept purpose statements that distinguish the technical log, the public-planning report, and the personal letter, as long as students support their claims with passage details. For the open task, accept varied subjects when each mini-text uses language and evidence appropriate to its intended purpose and audience.