Sentence Signals

Notice how sentence patterns guide a reader's attention and actions.

5.P.AC.1.c "Explain, analyze, and evaluate how the author's use of sentence structure and syntax affects the target audience and supports the text's purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences in paragraph 2 that begin with "When." Circle the two back-to-back sentences in paragraph 3 that repeat the words "safe places," then notice how these choices shape the message.

Bats at Work

1 At dusk, Mexican free-tailed bats stream from a cave like a dark ribbon. Where are they going? Above nearby fields, the bats hunt moths and other insects. A single bat can eat many insects in one night. Farmers benefit, and so do people who grow local food. The bats are not attacking. They are working each night.

2 When a bat sends out a high-pitched sound, it listens for an echo. When the echo changes, the bat can tell where an insect is moving. When the bat finds its prey, it opens its mouth and catches the insect in flight. This rapid pattern helps a bat hunt in the dark, where its eyes cannot do all the work.

3 People can help bats without touching them. Turn off bright outdoor lights when they are not needed. Leave dead trees standing only when they are safe, because some bats rest in tree holes. You can also share what you learned with a neighbor. Bats need safe places. Safe places help bats. Small choices, repeated by many people, can protect these nighttime workers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the question "Where are they going?" affect readers at the start of the passage?

2. How does using the same opening in the first three sentences of paragraph 2 affect the description of a bat hunting?

3. Why does the author repeat "safe places" in two short sentences in paragraph 3?

4. Paragraph 3 speaks directly to readers with "Turn off," "Leave," and "You can." Who is the target audience, and how do these sentence openings support the purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence tip for helping a local animal. Make sentence 1 a question, begin sentences 2 and 3 with the same word, and include "because" in sentence 4 to explain why the action matters.

Sentence Signals

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences in paragraph 2 that begin with "When." Circle the two back-to-back sentences in paragraph 3 that repeat the words "safe places," then notice how these choices shape the message. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the question "Where are they going?" affect readers at the start of the passage?	**It makes readers curious about the bats and draws them into the explanation.**
2	How does using the same opening in the first three sentences of paragraph 2 affect the description of a bat hunting?	**The repeated "When" opening creates a step-by-step pattern that shows the quick stages of hunting.**
3	Why does the author repeat "safe places" in two short sentences in paragraph 3?	**The repetition emphasizes that safe places are important for bats and makes the idea memorable.**
4	Paragraph 3 speaks directly to readers with "Turn off," "Leave," and "You can." Who is the target audience, and how do these sentence openings support the purpose?	**The audience is people who can make choices near their homes or community. The direct, action-focused openings clearly tell readers ways to help bats.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Did you know that pollinators need water? Place a shallow dish of water near flowers. Place small stones in the dish so insects can land safely. Your careful setup can help bees, because they need water as they visit plants.

Accept answers that connect sentence structure or syntax to curiosity, pacing, emphasis, clear directions, or the purpose of helping bats. For the writing task, accept any accurate local-animal tip that uses all required sentence structures.