

News Built First

See how a news article arranges information for readers.

6.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 does the paragraph's main job. In the margin, label each job with one or two words, such as event, background, quote, or next step.

School Roof Garden Opens

- ① On Saturday, May 10, Riverbend Middle School opened a rooftop garden that will supply lettuce and herbs to the cafeteria. About 40 students planted seedlings in raised beds during the morning event. The garden uses collected rainwater and compost made from cafeteria fruit and vegetable scraps. Principal Elena Ruiz said the project will give students a place to study plant growth while helping the school reduce food waste. The first harvest is expected in June, according to the garden club.
- ② The project started when science teacher Mr. Khan noticed that lunch workers threw away buckets of melon rinds and carrot ends each week. He asked the garden club to investigate composting, a process in which food scraps break down into nutrient-rich material for soil. "We wanted a project that solves two problems at once," said club president Jayla Morris. The students presented their plan to the school board in February and received a small grant for lumber, soil, and tools.
- ③ Garden volunteers will water and weed the beds before school, and cafeteria staff will use the harvest when enough leaves are ready. The club also plans to post weekly measurements of plant height near the library. Families can visit the garden during the school's June open house. Ruiz said she hopes the project will lead to more outdoor learning projects next year. The first public workday is scheduled for the Saturday after the open house.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What genre is this passage? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.

2 Why does paragraph 1 give the garden opening and its most important facts before explaining how the project began?

3 How does paragraph 2 add to paragraph 1 in a way that fits the genre?

4 Why are the future plans in paragraph 3 placed after the event details and background?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-paragraph news article about a real or imagined school event. In paragraph 1, report the main event with who, what, when, and where; in paragraph 2, add background and one quoted source; in paragraph 3, give a next step or future detail.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that does the paragraph's main job. In the margin, label each job with one or two words, such as event, background, quote, or next step. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What genre is this passage? Give two details from the passage that support your answer.	It is a news article. It opens with the main event, date, and place, and it includes a quoted source and details about what will happen next.
2	Why does paragraph 1 give the garden opening and its most important facts before explaining how the project began?	A news article usually gives readers the main event and key facts first so they quickly know what happened.
3	How does paragraph 2 add to paragraph 1 in a way that fits the genre?	Paragraph 2 provides background about why the project began and includes a quote from a student source.
4	Why are the future plans in paragraph 3 placed after the event details and background?	The future plans are less urgent than the main event, so they come after readers understand what happened and why.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Friday, October 3, Oakview Middle School opened a student-run repair station outside the library. During lunch, volunteers fixed loose backpack straps and replaced broken pencil-box zippers. The idea began when students noticed that many usable supplies were thrown away. "Repairing one item can keep it out of the trash," said volunteer Mateo Cruz. The station will open every Tuesday and Thursday, and students can sign up for repair training next month. The environmental club plans to track how many items are saved.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect news article features to the order of information. For the writing task, accept any clear three-paragraph news structure with a lead, background and quote, and a future detail.