Signs With Purpose

Analyze how layout guides quick decisions.

6.P.AC.3 "Text Design: Consider the impact of text design on audience and purpose when consuming and producing texts across modes and genres."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each direction to visitors. Circle each detail that describes how the sign looks, then write a short note in the margin about how it helps readers.

A Trail Sign That Works

1. On a busy city trail, a new sign helps visitors protect nesting turtles. At the top, the heading "Turtles Crossing" appears in large, dark letters. Below it, a simple drawing shows a turtle moving from a pond toward grass. The sign uses wide empty spaces, so a runner can read it quickly. Its short first section explains that turtles may cross the path in spring. The design catches the attention of people who may be walking, biking, or pushing strollers.

2. A yellow box in the middle says, "Slow down. Watch the edges of the path." Yellow stands out against the sign's green background, while the short commands are easy to spot. A smaller section titled "Why it matters" gives one reason: turtles need to reach nesting areas safely. This section uses regular-sized print because readers can pause to learn more after they notice the warning. A thin line separates the warning from the explanation, helping readers see that the two sections have different jobs.

3. Near the bottom, a blue strip lists three actions with check marks: keep dogs leashed, stay on the path, and tell an adult if a turtle is in danger. The check marks turn the information into a quick checklist. The sign does not use long paragraphs or many scientific details. Its purpose is to change behavior right away, not to teach a full lesson about turtle biology. By placing the action list last, the designer leaves visitors with clear steps they can follow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the large heading and the wide empty spaces help the sign's audience?

2. Why does the designer place the warning in a yellow box against a green background?

3. Why does the "Why it matters" section use regular-sized print instead of the large heading style?

4. What is the effect of placing the blue action list near the bottom of the sign?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Design a 40-to-60-word trail sign that tells visitors how to protect a different animal. Use a title in capital letters, a visual cue in brackets, a two-item checklist, and one color or spacing choice in parentheses for people who need quick directions.

ANSWER KEY

Signs With Purpose

GRADE 6 · 6.P.AC.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each direction to visitors. Circle each detail that describes how the sign looks, then write a short note in the margin about how it helps readers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the large heading and the wide empty spaces help the sign's audience?	**They help people notice the sign and read it quickly while using the trail.**
2	Why does the designer place the warning in a yellow box against a green background?	**The yellow contrasts with green, making the short warning easy to spot.**
3	Why does the "Why it matters" section use regular-sized print instead of the large heading style?	**Readers can pause to read the explanation after they notice the warning.**
4	What is the effect of placing the blue action list near the bottom of the sign?	**It leaves visitors with clear steps they can follow.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

FROGS ON THE MOVE [Drawing: a frog beside a wet ditch] (Yellow warning box with wide spaces) • Walk, do not run, near puddles. • Keep bikes on the paved path. Spring rain brings frogs across this trail. Help them reach the pond safely.

Accept answers that connect a design choice to its effect on trail visitors and the sign's purpose. For Part 3, accept varied animal-protection messages if they include every required design feature and fit a quick-read audience.