

Style Signal Sort

Notice the clues that make language formal or informal.

6.T.SS.2.c "Compare and contrast characteristics of formal style (e.g., jargon, complete sentences) with those of informal style (e.g., contractions, slang, sentence fragments) and apply understandings to writing and speaking. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

FORMAL STYLE

Formal style uses complete sentences and precise words. It avoids contractions and slang.

The library will close at 4:00 p.m.

INFORMAL STYLE

Informal style has a casual tone. It may use contractions, slang, or sentence fragments.

That movie was awesome!

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle FORMAL or INFORMAL for each item, then choose two items and explain which clue helped you sort each one.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. No way, that game was wild! | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 2. The committee will review the proposal tomorrow. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 3. Can't wait for lunch. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 4. Please place your backpack under your desk. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 5. The experiment produced measurable results. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 6. My bad, I forgot the notebook. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 7. Students must return borrowed materials on time. | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |
| 8. See you after practice! | ☐ FORMAL | ☐ INFORMAL |

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new FORMAL example and one new INFORMAL example.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one INFORMAL item from Part 1. Rewrite it in formal style, then name two changes you made.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	No way, that game was wild!	INFORMAL	Uses casual slang, including “No way” and “wild.”
2	The committee will review the proposal tomorrow.	FORMAL	Uses a complete sentence and precise language.
3	Can't wait for lunch.	INFORMAL	Uses a contraction and a sentence fragment.
4	Please place your backpack under your desk.	FORMAL	Uses a complete, polite sentence without slang or contractions.
5	The experiment produced measurable results.	FORMAL	Uses a complete sentence and precise academic language.
6	My bad, I forgot the notebook.	INFORMAL	Uses the casual phrase “My bad.”
7	Students must return borrowed materials on time.	FORMAL	Uses a complete sentence and specific, formal wording.
8	See you after practice!	INFORMAL	Uses a casual expression and a sentence fragment.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL:** The principal announced the schedule for the assembly.
- **INFORMAL:** I am gonna call you later.

Challenge: Item 3: I am looking forward to lunch. Changes: I expanded the contraction and changed the fragment into a complete sentence.

For Part 2, students should identify clear clues such as a contraction, slang, a sentence fragment, precise wording, or a complete sentence. Accept different original examples when each one matches the requested style.