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.

ANSWER KEY

Style Signal Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.T.SS.2.c

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.

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