One Flood, Three Forms

See how genre changes what information comes first.

7.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 Circle each paragraph's opening sentence. In the margin, write key fact, needed action, or personal experience beside it to show how each genre puts different information first.

Three Messages About Pine Creek

1. NEWS REPORT, 7:00 A.M.: Heavy rain overnight caused Pine Creek to rise above its banks near Riverbend Middle School. At 6:15 a.m., city workers closed the footbridge on Oak Lane after water covered its wooden deck. No injuries were reported. The city's emergency manager said the creek could rise another foot before noon. Crews placed barriers at both ends of the bridge and asked families to use Maple Avenue instead. Officials said they would post another update at 10:00 a.m.

2. PHONE ALERT, 7:12 A.M.: Avoid Oak Lane footbridge. Floodwater covers the deck, and the bridge is closed. Walk or drive by Maple Avenue until city workers send an update. Do not move the orange barriers. Rain is expected to continue this morning, so creek levels may change quickly. For updates, check the city website after 10:00 a.m. Families who need help getting around the closure can call the city information line. Emergency crews are watching the water level.

3. DIARY ENTRY, Tuesday Evening: I usually cross Oak Lane on my way to Riverbend Middle, so I stopped when I saw the barriers this morning. The creek looked brown and fast, almost level with the path. Dad and I turned around and took Maple Avenue. It made us late, but I was glad nobody tried to cross the bridge. Tonight, I checked the city website and learned that workers will inspect the bridge tomorrow. I keep thinking about how quickly a familiar route can change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What information does the news report give in its opening two sentences, and what information does it give later?

2. Why does the phone alert begin with "Avoid Oak Lane footbridge" instead of beginning with a description of the overnight rain?

3. How does the diary entry's arrangement help you understand the writer's experience? Use the beginning and ending of the entry in your answer.

4. Which paragraph would be most useful to a family deciding how to travel to school at 7:12 a.m.? Explain how its structure makes it useful.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that the school library is closed because of a leaking pipe. Write a two-sentence phone alert and a three-sentence diary entry about the same closure. Put the needed action first in the alert, and tell events in time order with a feeling or reflection in the diary entry.

ANSWER KEY

One Flood, Three Forms

GRADE 7 · 7.P.AC.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each paragraph's opening sentence. In the margin, write key fact, needed action, or personal experience beside it to show how each genre puts different information first. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What information does the news report give in its opening two sentences, and what information does it give later?	**It opens with the flooding and bridge closure. Later, it gives injury information, a forecast, the detour, and the next update time.**
2	Why does the phone alert begin with "Avoid Oak Lane footbridge" instead of beginning with a description of the overnight rain?	**The alert puts the needed safety action first so people can quickly choose a safe route.**
3	How does the diary entry's arrangement help you understand the writer's experience? Use the beginning and ending of the entry in your answer.	**It begins with the writer's usual trip and the blocked bridge, then ends with the writer's reflection about how quickly a familiar route can change.**
4	Which paragraph would be most useful to a family deciding how to travel to school at 7:12 a.m.? Explain how its structure makes it useful.	**The phone alert is most useful because it starts with the action to avoid the bridge and quickly gives the alternate route.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

PHONE ALERT: Do not enter the library today because workers are repairing a leaking pipe. Return borrowed books to the classroom bin until the library reopens. DIARY ENTRY: At lunch, I walked toward the library and saw a sign on the door. Ms. Chen said a pipe had leaked, so workers needed the room empty. I was disappointed to miss choosing a new book, but I understood why the repair came first.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the report as fact-first, the alert as action-first, and the diary as a personal, time-ordered account. For the open task, check that the alert gives a clear action immediately and the diary includes chronological events plus a personal response.