

Shape the Message

Track how an author shifts structures for readers.

7.T.SS.1.a "Analyze how authors modify organizational structures or features to convey meaning, respond to the audience, or achieve specific purposes. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or features that signal a change in how the information is arranged. In the margin, label the pattern used in each paragraph and note what it helps a reader do.

From Empty Lot to Garden

- ① On Saturday morning, Maya unlocked the gate of the empty lot behind River Street Library. Last month, the ground held broken bottles and weeds taller than her knees. Now volunteers had cleared the trash, and wooden beds stood in neat rows. Maya pressed a bean seed into the soil while Mr. Ortiz measured a rain barrel. By noon, neighbors had planted tomatoes, basil, and sunflowers. The lot was becoming the River Street Community Garden, a place where people could grow food and meet one another.
- ② Can anyone use a garden bed? Yes. Families, classes, and nearby residents may request a small bed at the library desk. What happens when vegetables are ready? Gardeners may take what they grow, then leave a few seeds for the next season. Is the garden only for experienced growers? No. Every Wednesday, a volunteer shows visitors how to water, pull weeds, and check plants for insects. A bulletin board near the gate lists the time for each session.
- ③ To join the next planting day, follow these steps: 1. Write your name and a contact adult's name on the sign-up sheet. 2. Bring a water bottle, closed-toe shoes, and a hat. 3. Meet at the library gate at 9:00 a.m. 4. Choose a job after the coordinator explains the day's needs. Rain does not always cancel the event. If storms are expected, check the library's website before leaving home. Tools and gloves are available to borrow at the gate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How is the first paragraph organized, and how does that organization help convey the garden's change?

2 Why might the author switch to question-and-answer form in the second paragraph?

3 How does the numbered list in the third paragraph present information differently from the question-and-answer section?

4 Why does the author place the weather information after the numbered steps in the third paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a school-event announcement. Begin with a two-sentence scene, include two question-and-answer pairs, and end with a numbered three-step list. After the announcement, add one sentence explaining how a change in structure helps your intended readers.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or features that signal a change in how the information is arranged. In the margin, label the pattern used in each paragraph and note what it helps a reader do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is the first paragraph organized, and how does that organization help convey the garden's change?	It is organized in time order, moving from the empty lot last month to the planting day. This shows how the lot changed into a community garden.
2	Why might the author switch to question-and-answer form in the second paragraph?	The format addresses practical questions that potential gardeners may have and makes the answers easy to find.
3	How does the numbered list in the third paragraph present information differently from the question-and-answer section?	The numbered list gives actions in an order readers can follow, while the question-and-answer section groups information by common concerns.
4	Why does the author place the weather information after the numbered steps in the third paragraph?	It adds a condition readers should check after learning the basic steps, helping them prepare if the weather may affect the event.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The gym is quiet now, but on Friday it will fill with teams building cardboard boats for the school Float Challenge. Judges will test each boat in a small pool. Who may enter? Any student may join a team of two to four. What should teams bring? Bring recycled cardboard and waterproof tape. 1. Register your team by Wednesday. 2. Sketch your boat during lunch on Thursday. 3. Bring the finished boat to the gym at 3:15 Friday. The opening scene catches interest, then the questions and steps help teams find details and prepare.

Accept equivalent analyses that connect each organizational choice to a reader need, meaning, or purpose. For the open response, look for all required structures and a reasonable explanation of how the shift supports the intended audience.