One Event, Three Designs

See how a safety alert, a news report, and a blog organize one event.

8.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 Underline words or sentences that show what comes first, next, or later in each paragraph. Circle details that reveal each text's purpose, then use your marks to compare how the genres are arranged.

A Broken Water Main

1. When a water main breaks, city workers may issue a boil-water notice. The notice is a public safety alert, so it puts the most urgent action first: boil tap water used for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, or making ice. Next, it names the affected streets, the start time, and a phone number or website. Short headings and bullet points help residents find directions quickly. The alert does not begin with a long account of the broken pipe because people need instructions before background details.

2. A local news report about the same break uses a different arrangement. Its lead states what happened, where it happened, and how service was affected. Later paragraphs add details from utility officials, explain the repair work, and describe when testing might allow the notice to end. A reporter may include a resident's comment, but the report separates that comment from verified facts. This structure helps readers understand the event and judge which information comes from sources. It is not organized as a list of commands, because its main purpose is to inform the public about an event.

3. An eighth-grade student might tell the story in a personal blog post. That genre could open with the moment her faucet sputtered, then move through her family's decisions during the notice. She could describe carrying a pot of water to the stove and wondering whether school would close. Near the end, she might reflect on how the event changed her view of clean water. Unlike the alert or news report, the blog post can focus on one person's experience and feelings. Its time order lets readers follow events as the writer lived them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the safety alert's order of information differ from the news report's order? How does each order fit its purpose?

2. Name two details placed after the urgent action in the safety alert. Why are they placed after the action?

3. How does the news report arrange a resident's comment differently from verified facts? Why does this matter?

4. Why does time order fit the personal blog post better than it would fit the safety alert?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school event, such as a power outage or a canceled game. Write a two-sentence safety alert and a two-sentence personal blog opening about the same event. In the alert, put the needed action before details. In the blog, use time order and include an experience or feeling.

ANSWER KEY

One Event, Three Designs

GRADE 8 · 8.P.AC.3.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or sentences that show what comes first, next, or later in each paragraph. Circle details that reveal each text's purpose, then use your marks to compare how the genres are arranged. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the safety alert's order of information differ from the news report's order? How does each order fit its purpose?	**The alert gives the urgent action first, then location, time, and contact details so residents can act quickly. The news report leads with what happened, where, and the effect, then adds source-based details to inform readers.**
2	Name two details placed after the urgent action in the safety alert. Why are they placed after the action?	**The alert gives the affected streets, start time, and contact information after the action. These details come later because people need to know what to do first.**
3	How does the news report arrange a resident's comment differently from verified facts? Why does this matter?	**The report separates the resident's comment from verified facts. This helps readers judge which information comes from sources.**
4	Why does time order fit the personal blog post better than it would fit the safety alert?	**Time order lets readers follow the writer's experience and feelings as events happened. A safety alert needs to give urgent directions first instead.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Stay in your classroom and follow your teacher's directions. The power outage began at 10:15 a.m., and the office will share updates. At 10:15, the lights blinked and the room went quiet except for rain against the windows. I felt nervous at first, but my teacher's calm voice helped me wait with my classmates.

Accept answers that accurately connect each genre's arrangement to its purpose and audience. For Part 3, the alert should place an action first, while the blog should move through time and include a personal response.