Style Switch

Match language choices to audience, purpose, and context.

8.T.SS.2.c "Use formal or informal style characteristics as indicated by a text's purpose, audience, and disciplinary context. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that sound formal, and circle words or phrases that sound informal. Write F or I beside each paragraph to show which style best fits its audience and purpose.

Three Messages, One Garden

1. To: Principal Morales Subject: Request for a Native Plant Garden Dear Principal Morales, Our ecology club requests permission to replace the unused grass strip beside the south parking lot with a native plant garden. Native plants can provide food and shelter for local insects and birds. We would like to meet on Thursday to discuss a budget, watering plan, and safety steps. Attached is a map of the proposed site. Thank you for considering this request. Sincerely, Amina Patel, Ecology Club President

2. Ecology Club Chat Amina: Hey, team, the garden plan is moving! Ms. Morales wants us to show that we can care for the plants during summer. Jules: I can ask my neighbor, who gardens a lot, which plants need less water. Amina: Nice. Also, bring your ideas to lunch Friday. We need a quick list before our meeting, so do not forget. Jules: Got it. I will make a shared note tonight for everyone to use.

3. Field Observation, May 14 At 3:30 p.m., club members measured the grass strip. The area is 18 meters long and 4 meters wide. It receives direct sunlight from late morning until afternoon. No standing water was observed after rain the previous day. These measurements will help the club select plants suited to the site. The group will submit its plant list with sources that identify each species as native to the region before requesting final approval from the school.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who is the likely audience for paragraph 1, and what does the writer want that audience to do?

2. Identify two formal style characteristics in paragraph 1. Explain how they fit the writer's purpose.

3. Quote two informal expressions from paragraph 2. Why do these expressions fit the audience?

4. Which paragraph sounds most like a field record? Give two details that make its style fit that disciplinary context.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement idea. Write a 45-60-word formal message to a school staff member requesting support, then write a 20-30-word informal message to classmates about the same idea. Use a style that fits each audience and purpose.

ANSWER KEY

Style Switch

GRADE 8 · 8.T.SS.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that sound formal, and circle words or phrases that sound informal. Write F or I beside each paragraph to show which style best fits its audience and purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who is the likely audience for paragraph 1, and what does the writer want that audience to do?	**The audience is Principal Morales. The writer wants permission to create a native plant garden and to discuss the plan.**
2	Identify two formal style characteristics in paragraph 1. Explain how they fit the writer's purpose.	**Examples include the greeting "Dear Principal Morales," the polite word "requests," the signature with a title, and the mention of an attached map. These choices make a respectful, organized request to a principal.**
3	Quote two informal expressions from paragraph 2. Why do these expressions fit the audience?	**Answers may include "Hey, team," "Nice," and "Got it." They fit because club members are communicating quickly and casually with peers.**
4	Which paragraph sounds most like a field record? Give two details that make its style fit that disciplinary context.	**Paragraph 3. It gives precise measurements and a time, and it uses objective observation language such as "No standing water was observed."**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Formal message: Dear Ms. Chen, Our student council would like permission to place a labeled recycling bin near the cafeteria. This location may help students sort bottles and cans after lunch. Could we meet next week to discuss bin costs, collection schedules, and signs? Thank you for considering our request. Sincerely, Diego Ramos Informal message: Hey council, let's try for a recycling bin by the cafeteria. Bring sign ideas to Tuesday's lunch meeting, and I'll share the request draft.

Accept responses that accurately identify style choices and connect them to audience, purpose, or disciplinary context. For Part 3, check that the formal message is 45-60 words, the informal message is 20-30 words, and each version clearly changes style for its audience.