Follow the Flow

Notice how a writer introduces a topic and orders its stages.

5.W.2.a "Introduce a topic; organize sentences and paragraphs logically, using an organizational form that suits the topic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle the time phrases that mark each stage, and write a short stage label beside each paragraph. Use your marks to see how the writer puts the stages in order.

How a Rain Barrel Works

1. A rain barrel gives a garden a way to save water from a roof. Before rain begins, an adult places a covered barrel beneath a downspout, the pipe that carries water from a gutter. A screen over the opening keeps leaves and mosquitoes out. The barrel also needs a spigot near the bottom so someone can fill a watering can later.

2. When rain falls, it runs down the roof and into the gutter. The downspout guides that water toward the barrel's screened opening. As the barrel fills, the screen catches bits of leaves while water passes through. Some barrels have an overflow pipe that sends extra water away from the building. This keeps water from pooling beside the foundation.

3. After the storm, a gardener turns the spigot and fills a watering can. The saved water can help flowers or vegetables during a dry afternoon. It is not meant for drinking because roof water may carry dirt or other pollutants. Then the gardener closes the spigot and keeps the barrel covered until the next rain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence introduces the topic of the whole passage? Copy it.

2. What stage does each paragraph explain? Name the stages in paragraph order.

3. How do the opening phrases of paragraphs 2 and 3 help you follow the order?

4. Why does the sentence about not drinking roof water fit better in paragraph 3 than in paragraph 1?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 5 to 6 sentences explaining how to pack a backpack for a school day. Introduce the topic first, then put the steps in time order and use at least two time phrases.

ANSWER KEY

Follow the Flow

GRADE 5 · 5.W.2.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that introduces the topic, circle the time phrases that mark each stage, and write a short stage label beside each paragraph. Use your marks to see how the writer puts the stages in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence introduces the topic of the whole passage? Copy it.	**A rain barrel gives a garden a way to save water from a roof.**
2	What stage does each paragraph explain? Name the stages in paragraph order.	**Paragraph 1 explains setting up the barrel, paragraph 2 explains collecting rain, and paragraph 3 explains using the saved water.**
3	How do the opening phrases of paragraphs 2 and 3 help you follow the order?	**"When rain falls" and "After the storm" show that collecting water happens before using it.**
4	Why does the sentence about not drinking roof water fit better in paragraph 3 than in paragraph 1?	**Paragraph 3 explains how the saved water is used, so it is the right place to explain a limit on its use.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Packing a backpack for school is easier when you follow a simple order. First, check your class schedule to see which books and folders you need. Next, place the heaviest books closest to your back. Then add your folders and pencil case where you can reach them. Before leaving, put your lunch in a separate pocket if your bag has one. Finally, zip every pocket so nothing falls out.

Accept brief stage labels such as setup, collection, and use. For the writing task, accept different sensible packing steps if the paragraph introduces the topic, follows a logical time order, and includes at least two time phrases.