Style That Fits

How an explanation serves its readers

9-10.W.2.e "Establish and maintain a style appropriate for the purpose and audience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three precise terms and circle two explanations that make those terms clear to school families. Use your marks to notice how the writer maintains an informative style.

How a Rain Garden Handles a Storm

1 After a hard rain, water can race across a school courtyard and collect near the doors. A rain garden offers that water another route. It is a shallow planted area placed where some stormwater can enter safely. Water flowing over pavement is called runoff. Rather than treating runoff as a problem to hide, the garden slows it and holds it for a short time. A rain garden is not a pond: its surface should drain between storms. For families walking past the courtyard, the planted space may look ordinary, but its position and shape serve a practical purpose.

2 When runoff enters the garden, stems and leaves slow its movement. A layer of mulch helps protect the soil surface, while plant roots create spaces in the soil over time. Some water then moves downward through the soil, a process called infiltration. Soil and plants can also trap some materials carried by the water, though a garden cannot make polluted water safe to drink. Native plants are often useful because they are adapted to local conditions, but the right species depends on the site. Together, these features help explain why the garden works even when no rain is falling.

3 A rain garden also needs a plan for storms that bring more water than its soil can absorb. An overflow route lets extra water leave without flooding nearby paths or buildings. Staff must clear blocked inlets, remove litter, and check that plants remain healthy. Those routine tasks matter as much as the initial planting. A rain garden can reduce the amount of runoff leaving a site, but it does not replace every drain or stop every flood. That measured conclusion fits a guide for school families: it explains the benefit without promising more than the garden can deliver.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find one precise term in the passage and the words that explain it. How does this choice serve school families?

2. Why is the comparison “A rain garden is not a pond” useful in an explanation for families?

3. In paragraph 2, which statement keeps the explanation from overstating what a rain garden can do? Explain how it affects the style.

4. How do the maintenance details in paragraph 3 help the passage keep a practical style for school families?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your school has installed a bottle-refilling station with a motion sensor and a display that counts each fill. Write one informative paragraph of 75 to 95 words for incoming ninth graders. Explain how to use the station and one likely benefit, define “motion sensor” in everyday language, and state one limit of what the counter can tell readers.

ANSWER KEY

Style That Fits

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.W.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three precise terms and circle two explanations that make those terms clear to school families. Use your marks to notice how the writer maintains an informative style. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find one precise term in the passage and the words that explain it. How does this choice serve school families?	**The passage calls water flowing over pavement "runoff." The explanation helps readers understand the precise term without needing prior knowledge.**
2	Why is the comparison "A rain garden is not a pond" useful in an explanation for families?	**It corrects a likely misunderstanding in familiar language, then explains that the garden should drain between storms.**
3	In paragraph 2, which statement keeps the explanation from overstating what a rain garden can do? Explain how it affects the style.	**The passage says a garden cannot make polluted water safe to drink. This limit keeps the informative style accurate rather than promotional.**
4	How do the maintenance details in paragraph 3 help the passage keep a practical style for school families?	**The details about clearing inlets, removing litter, and checking plants show the work required to keep the garden functioning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the new bottle-refilling station, move your reusable bottle beneath the spout. A motion sensor, a device that detects movement, starts the water without a button. The display counts each fill the station dispenses, so students can see how often it is used. Refilling a bottle can reduce the need for single-use bottles when students choose it instead of buying one. The counter does not show how many disposable bottles were actually avoided, since some students might otherwise have used a regular fountain.

Accept other passage-based examples when students explain how a wording choice suits the audience and purpose. For the final paragraph, look for a clear definition, a qualified benefit, and an accurate limit on what the fill counter measures.