Make It Clearer

See how feedback turns a vague proposal into a workable plan.

W.7.5 "With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the quoted sentence after "Her first draft opened," and circle the quoted sentence after "Maya replaced her first-draft opening with this sentence:" to compare the two openings.

The Recess Cart Proposal

1 At recess, Maya watched three classmates wait beside the fence while the basketball court stayed crowded. She wanted to propose a cart of games that anyone could borrow. Her first draft opened, "Recess should be better." The next lines listed jump ropes, foam balls, and chalk, but they never explained who would manage the cart. Maya read her draft aloud to her partner, Luis. He asked, "What would a student actually do to borrow something?" Maya wrote that question in the margin instead of trying to answer it on the spot.

2 After school, Maya showed the draft to the recess supervisor. The supervisor said equipment often disappeared when no one knew where to return it. Maya decided her proposal needed a simple routine, not a longer list of games. She moved the list below her main idea and added a detail: students would put a name card in a pocket on the cart, then return each item before the bell. She checked whether this plan answered Luis's question and the supervisor's concern. It did, but her opening still sounded vague.

3 Maya replaced her first-draft opening with this sentence: "A cart of jump ropes, foam balls, and chalk would give more students a way to play at recess." Then she added a sentence explaining that the name-card pocket would help students track borrowed items. Finally, she fixed a misspelled word and read the proposal once more. The spelling change made the page cleaner, but the new opening and return routine made her idea easier to picture. When Luis read the new version, he could explain how the cart would work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the revised opening improve on Maya's first-draft opening? Name one specific detail it adds.

2. What did Maya add to address Luis's question about borrowing something?

3. How did the recess supervisor's feedback affect Maya's revision?

4. Which change better helps a reader decide whether the plan could work: fixing the spelling or adding the return routine? Explain using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A classmate says, "I cannot picture how your idea would work." Write a two-sentence draft proposing a school change other than Maya's cart. Then rewrite those two sentences to answer the classmate by adding a specific detail about how your idea would work. Label each version.

ANSWER KEY

Make It Clearer

GRADE 7 · W.7.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the quoted sentence after "Her first draft opened," and circle the quoted sentence after "Maya replaced her first-draft opening with this sentence:" to compare the two openings. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the revised opening improve on Maya's first-draft opening? Name one specific detail it adds.	**It names the cart and its supplies, so readers can picture Maya's proposal instead of only hearing that recess should improve.**
2	What did Maya add to address Luis's question about borrowing something?	**Students would put a name card in a pocket on the cart and return each borrowed item before the bell.**
3	How did the recess supervisor's feedback affect Maya's revision?	**Maya added a return routine to address the supervisor's concern that equipment could disappear.**
4	Which change better helps a reader decide whether the plan could work: fixing the spelling or adding the return routine? Explain using the passage.	**Adding the return routine matters more because it shows how students would track and return equipment. Fixing the spelling only makes the page cleaner.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Draft: Our school should have a garden. It would be fun.
Revision: Our school should plant a small garden beside the library, with each homeroom caring for one box of plants. A weekly watering schedule would show students when to help and keep the plants cared for.

Accept answers that connect a specific revision to the feedback or problem it addresses. For Part 3, look for two labeled versions of two sentences each and a revised detail that makes the student's own idea easier to picture.