

Trim for Meaning

Edit a garden report for clear, efficient language.

7L3.a "Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that repeat an idea or could be shorter. Circle details that make a sentence exact, such as a number, action, or location.

Editing the Garden Report

- ① When students report on the school garden, they can make each sentence carry its share of meaning. Precise language names the action, amount, or place instead of using broad words such as thing, nice, or a lot. Concise language removes words that add no new idea. For example, a writer might replace "made an observation" with "observed." The shorter verb is clearer. Good editing does not make writing bare. It keeps details that help a reader picture what happened.
- ② Imagine the garden club describing its Saturday work. One draft says, "The members worked together as a team to improve the garden area." The sentence repeats an idea and uses a broad verb. A reader learns more from, "Twelve members weeded the raised beds." The number, action, and location give useful information. Editors look for repeated meanings, empty openings, and long phrases that a single strong word can replace. They also protect details, because cutting important facts can make a sentence less exact.
- ③ During a final read, an editor might mark "the end result" because result already means an outcome. The editor might change "made a decision" to "decided," but keep a detail such as "at 9:15 a.m." Exact details answer questions a reader may have. The goal is not simply fewer words. The goal is language that gives the clearest meaning with no extra weight. A report about the garden can be brief and still tell who worked, what they did, and where the work happened.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 In the first draft in paragraph 2, which two parts express the same idea?

2 What precise verb tells what the twelve members did?

3 In the phrase "the end result," which word can be deleted without changing the meaning?

4 Replace "made a decision" with the one-word verb used in paragraph 3.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences, 40 to 60 words, about an activity at school or home. Include one exact number or measurement and one precise verb, while removing repeated ideas and extra words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that repeat an idea or could be shorter. Circle details that make a sentence exact, such as a number, action, or location. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the first draft in paragraph 2, which two parts express the same idea?	"worked together" and "as a team"
2	What precise verb tells what the twelve members did?	weeded
3	In the phrase "the end result," which word can be deleted without changing the meaning?	end
4	Replace "made a decision" with the one-word verb used in paragraph 3.	decided

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Tuesday, 14 volunteers sorted 36 library books into labeled bins during a 25-minute lunch period. Afterward, they delivered the bins to three sixth-grade classrooms, so teachers could begin the new reading project with their students the next morning without searching for missing titles.

Accept equivalent responses that correctly identify repeated ideas or remove the redundant word. For the open task, accept two concise sentences of 40 to 60 words that include an exact number or measurement and a precise verb.