

Words That Work

Notice how sentence choices shape a clear, trustworthy proposal.

8L3 "Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the sentences in each paragraph. Underline each sentence that begins with a dependent clause, circle each sentence with five words or fewer, and box each transition word or phrase that signals a change in direction. These choices help you see how a writer controls pace, connections, and tone.

Cooling City Streets

- ① On summer afternoons, asphalt can make a city feel like an oven. Trees offer more than shade: their leaves cool the air as water evaporates. In cities such as Phoenix, volunteers plant desert-adapted trees near bus stops and walking routes. The work is practical. A shaded bench can make a long wait safer for someone who must travel on foot. Still, young trees need regular water, room for roots, and protection from damage during their first summers.
- ② Because neighborhood temperatures can differ block by block, planners must choose sites carefully. They study where people walk, where pavement is widest, and where buildings provide little relief. A tree planted beside a playground may help children, but a tree beside an unshaded transit stop may serve riders of many ages. One choice matters. By listening to residents, planners can avoid placing trees where underground pipes or future construction will limit growth of their roots.
- ③ At a community meeting, the proposal should sound clear rather than dramatic. Residents deserve specific details, such as the number of trees, the watering plan, and the reason each location was selected. Do not promise that a few saplings will solve every heat problem. Instead, explain the limits and the benefits. When speakers match a calm tone with well-chosen evidence, their message can invite useful questions and build trust among neighbors across the city over time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, which sentence has four words? Explain how its short length affects the paragraph's style.

2 Copy the opening dependent clause in paragraph 2. How does this clause connect to the main idea of its sentence?

3 In paragraph 2, what three conditions are introduced by the repeated word *where*? Why does this repeated pattern fit a planning discussion?

4 How does the word *Instead* in paragraph 3 connect the two ideas around it? What tone does that word help create?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence proposal for one improvement at your school. Begin one sentence with a dependent clause, include one sentence with two to five words, use a colon to introduce a list, and keep a calm, specific tone.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the sentences in each paragraph. Underline each sentence that begins with a dependent clause, circle each sentence with five words or fewer, and box each transition word or phrase that signals a change in direction. These choices help you see how a writer controls pace, connections, and tone. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which sentence has four words? Explain how its short length affects the paragraph's style.	"The work is practical." Its short length emphasizes the main point and gives the paragraph a direct, matter-of-fact pace.
2	Copy the opening dependent clause in paragraph 2. How does this clause connect to the main idea of its sentence?	"Because neighborhood temperatures can differ block by block," It gives the reason planners must choose sites carefully.
3	In paragraph 2, what three conditions are introduced by the repeated word <i>where</i> ? Why does this repeated pattern fit a planning discussion?	People walk there, pavement is widest there, and buildings provide little relief there. The parallel pattern presents the planners' site-selection criteria in an organized, clear way.
4	How does the word <i>Instead</i> in paragraph 3 connect the two ideas around it? What tone does that word help create?	It contrasts making unrealistic promises with explaining limits and benefits. It helps create a calm, honest, practical tone.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Because the west entrance has no shade, our school should add two benches beneath a canopy. The project would provide three benefits: shade, seating, and a dry place for bags. It is practical. Staff could choose a location that does not block the walkway. With a clear plan and a modest budget, the improvement could serve students every day.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify how sentence length, openings, repetition, and transitions affect clarity, emphasis, and tone. For the open response, check for exactly five sentences and all four requested language choices.