Voices at Work

Use a colon to introduce a source's exact words.

7.5.W.8 "Students will use a colon to introduce a quotation from a source."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each complete lead-in that names a speaker, circle the colon after it, and number the quotations it introduces.

A Repair Day at School

1 At Cedar Street School, a seventh-grade club planned a repair day for broken backpacks and lunch bags. The group wanted students to try simple fixes before throwing things away. To learn what people needed, club members interviewed classmates during lunch. Classmate Mara described a common problem: "The zipper pull broke off my backpack, but the zipper still works." The club wrote down each speaker's exact words so the posters would reflect real problems. They also asked an adult volunteer to check which repairs students could safely make.

2 The next week, the club tested supplies at a worktable. They laid out sturdy thread, spare zipper pulls, and patches cut from worn fabric. Their science teacher, Mr. Chen, gave one practical warning: "Ask an adult for help before using a sharp needle." Club members decided to offer fabric glue for some patches and adult help for sewing. Mara explained why a repair station might matter to students: "I stopped using my favorite bag because one strap was loose." Her comment helped the club put strap repairs on the sign.

3 On repair day, the club placed a box for supplies near the library door and invited students to bring one item at a time. A student volunteer named Eli reported a small success: "We fixed three loose straps before lunch ended." The club did not claim that every bag could be saved. Instead, members posted a note telling students when to ask an adult for help. By the end of the day, the repair table had become a place to share tools, careful advice, and ideas for keeping useful things in use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the lead-in and quotation for Mara's first comment. Keep the colon and quotation marks in their correct places.

2. Copy the full lead-in to Mr. Chen's warning. Why can it end with a colon?

3. Use Mara's exact words from the passage to revise this draft with a colon and quotation marks: Mara explained why a repair station might matter to students. I stopped using my favorite bag because one strap was loose.

4. Why would a colon be incorrect after "A student volunteer named Eli"? Write the complete lead-in from the passage that fixes the problem.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine interviewing a classmate about a new way to reduce waste at school. Write two sentences about an idea not described in the passage. In one sentence, name your imagined source and use a colon to introduce that person's exact words in quotation marks.

Voices at Work

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each complete lead-in that names a speaker, circle the colon after it, and number the quotations it introduces. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the lead-in and quotation for Mara's first comment. Keep the colon and quotation marks in their correct places.	**Classmate Mara described a common problem: "The zipper pull broke off my backpack, but the zipper still works."**
2	Copy the full lead-in to Mr. Chen's warning. Why can it end with a colon?	**Their science teacher, Mr. Chen, gave one practical warning: It is a complete sentence that introduces his exact words.**
3	Use Mara's exact words from the passage to revise this draft with a colon and quotation marks: Mara explained why a repair station might matter to students. I stopped using my favorite bag because one strap was loose.	**Mara explained why a repair station might matter to students: "I stopped using my favorite bag because one strap was loose."**
4	Why would a colon be incorrect after "A student volunteer named Eli"? Write the complete lead-in from the passage that fixes the problem.	**"A student volunteer named Eli" is not a complete sentence. The complete lead-in is "A student volunteer named Eli reported a small success:"**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My classmate Lila suggested a way to reuse paper: "Put a scrap-paper tray beside the printer." Students could use the blank sides for notes.

For Part 3, accept a new waste-reduction idea in exactly two sentences. One sentence must name an imagined source and place a colon after a complete lead-in, followed by the source's words in quotation marks.