Seeds and Readers

See how a writer changes form for different readers.

7.8.W "Students will write independently using print, cursive, and/or typing for various lengths of time, choosing and combining modes and genres to suit their audience and purpose."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each writing mode, underline each intended audience, and number the three pieces from most private to most public to show how the writer changes form for readers.

Three Ways to Share Seeds

1. Field journal, written in cursive in five minutes for my own memory: The bean pods on our balcony have turned tan and papery. When I shook one, I heard a soft rattle. I split it open and found six purple-speckled beans, each smooth as a pebble. Dad and I spread them on a plate to dry before putting them in a labeled envelope. I want to bring some to the school library seed swap. Remember: ask whether anyone has sunflower seeds, because the empty pot by our window gets afternoon sun.

2. Email, typed in fifteen minutes for Ms. Chen, our school librarian: Dear Ms. Chen, Could we host a seed swap at the library next Friday after school? I have dry bean seeds in labeled envelopes, and two classmates have offered marigold seeds. If you approve, I can make a flyer and set out a table with blank envelopes and pencils. We could ask visitors to write the seed name and the date on each envelope. Please let me know by Tuesday so I have time to invite families. Thank you, Maya.

3. Flyer, hand-printed in block letters in eight minutes for students and families: SEED SWAP AT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY! Come next Friday after school to share seeds and discover something new to grow. Bring dry seeds in a labeled envelope if you have them, but you may join even if you bring none. Write the seed name and the date on any envelope you fill. Look for the table beside the library door. Small seeds can begin a big conversation. Ask a friend to come with you!

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the field journal fit a private reader better than the flyer does? Use one detail from the journal.

2. Which piece is typed, who will read it, and what decision does the writer need from that reader?

3. How does the hand-printed flyer change the message in the email for a different audience? Give one detail from each piece.

4. Which piece took the longest to write? How does its content differ from the five-minute journal?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one sentence of private notes about a possible lunchtime board-game exchange, then write a three-sentence announcement inviting students to join. Label a writing mode for each piece, and add one sentence explaining why you chose each mode.

ANSWER KEY

Seeds and Readers

GRADE 7 · 7.8.W

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each writing mode, underline each intended audience, and number the three pieces from most private to most public to show how the writer changes form for readers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the field journal fit a private reader better than the flyer does? Use one detail from the journal.	**It includes a reminder meant for the writer, such as asking whether anyone has sunflower seeds.**
2	Which piece is typed, who will read it, and what decision does the writer need from that reader?	**The email is typed for Ms. Chen, who must decide whether to approve the seed swap.**
3	How does the hand-printed flyer change the message in the email for a different audience? Give one detail from each piece.	**The email asks Ms. Chen for approval, while the flyer invites students and families to attend and tells them what to bring.**
4	Which piece took the longest to write? How does its content differ from the five-minute journal?	**The fifteen-minute email took longest. It proposes a plan and asks for approval, while the journal records observations and a personal reminder.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Private note (cursive): Ask if the chess club can lend extra boards. Announcement (typed): Want to trade board games at lunch? Meet by the cafeteria doors on Thursday with a complete game to exchange. You can come to look even if you do not bring a game. I would use cursive for a quick note to myself. I would type the announcement so I could print clear copies for students.

Accept other text-based explanations when they identify the intended reader and cite a fitting detail. For Part 3, look for distinct private and public pieces, the requested sentence counts, and a reason for each writing mode.