A Slower Route

Read an informative model, then write with evidence and clarity

8.3.W.2 "Students will compose informative essays or reports that: • objectively introduce and develop topics • incorporate evidence (e.g., specific facts, details, charts and graphs..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines a rain garden, circle two details that explain how it works, and label each paragraph I, P, or L to show where the writer introduces the topic, explains the process, or sets limits on the claim.

Where Rainwater Goes

1 After a heavy rain, water from roofs and pavement often rushes into storm drains. A rain garden offers another route. It is a shallow planted area designed to collect runoff and let it soak into the ground. It is not a pond that holds water year-round; it is a temporary stopping place. Because pavement blocks water from entering soil, runoff can carry dirt and other pollutants toward streams. A rain garden slows that trip, giving water time to spread over soil instead of racing down a drain.

2 Location and layers make the garden work. Builders often place it downhill from a roof downspout, but away from building foundations. They shape a shallow basin and fill it with soil that drains well. During a storm, water enters the basin; afterward, it moves through soil as the surface empties. Plant roots help maintain spaces in the soil where water can pass. The garden is designed to drain between storms, so its plants must tolerate both brief flooding and dry periods.

3 Rain gardens can also help filter runoff. As water passes through soil, some particles become trapped, while plants and soil organisms can take up or break down some pollutants. Results depend on the garden's size, soil, and upkeep; no single garden can prevent every flood or remove every pollutant. Leaves and sediment may need to be cleared so water can enter freely. A rain garden does not erase a storm. It changes the path stormwater takes, replacing a fast trip across pavement with a slower journey into soil.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence defines a rain garden? How does that definition help a reader understand the topic?

2. Choose two details from paragraph 2 that explain how water moves through a rain garden.

3. How does paragraph 3 keep the report from making an exaggerated claim? Use a detail from the passage.

4. Find one contrast in the passage. Explain how it makes the rain garden's role clearer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one 75 to 95 word informative paragraph explaining how a familiar school tool or routine works. Introduce it objectively, include two specific observable details, organize your explanation in sequence or cause and effect, use a formal style with varied sentence openings, and include a contrast like one in the passage without copying its wording.

ANSWER KEY

A Slower Route

GRADE 8 · 8.3.W.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines a rain garden, circle two details that explain how it works, and label each paragraph I, P, or L to show where the writer introduces the topic, explains the process, or sets limits on the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence defines a rain garden? How does that definition help a reader understand the topic?	**"It is a shallow planted area designed to collect runoff and let it soak into the ground." It tells readers what a rain garden is and what it does.**
2	Choose two details from paragraph 2 that explain how water moves through a rain garden.	**The basin contains soil that drains well, and plant roots help maintain spaces in the soil where water can pass.**
3	How does paragraph 3 keep the report from making an exaggerated claim? Use a detail from the passage.	**It says results depend on size, soil, and upkeep, and that no single garden can prevent every flood or remove every pollutant.**
4	Find one contrast in the passage. Explain how it makes the rain garden's role clearer.	**The passage says a rain garden is not a pond that holds water year-round but a temporary stopping place. This contrast clarifies that collected water is meant to soak into the ground.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A hand-held pencil sharpener restores a usable point to a dull pencil. First, the pencil enters a small opening that holds it against a metal blade. As the pencil turns, the blade shaves away thin curls of wood and graphite, exposing a narrower core. The shavings collect in a removable case on some sharpeners, while others drop them directly into a wastebasket. Sharpening does not add new graphite; it uncovers graphite already inside the pencil. A steady turn produces a point that can make finer marks on paper.

For the marking job, accept two accurate process details and the paragraph labels I, P, L in order. For the writing task, accept any accurate, observable school tool or routine explained in one 75 to 95 word paragraph that meets the stated style and structure requirements.