Action in Focus

Voice changes what readers notice.

10.LL.16 "Interpret how an author's grammar and rhetorical style contribute to the meaning in both fiction, including poetry and prose, and nonfiction, including historical, business, informational, and workplace documents."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. This choice puts the doer in focus.

A sculptor carved marble.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. This choice puts what is affected in focus, even when the doer is named.

Marble was carved by a sculptor.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each numbered sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how its subject and verb helped you decide.

1.	Mira hid the key.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
2.	The treaty was signed by both leaders.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
3.	The invoice was approved by the manager.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
4.	The moon painted the windows.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
5.	The council published the report.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
6.	The samples were tested by the lab.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
7.	The supervisor changed the schedule.	ACTIVE PASSIVE
8.	The witness opened the door.	ACTIVE PASSIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how its subject and verb helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two complete sentences about different events, one in active voice and one in passive voice; underline the subject in each.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one numbered item and rewrite its entire sentence in the opposite voice without changing who did what; then write one sentence explaining how the new voice shifts the reader's focus.

ANSWER KEY # Action in Focus

GRADE 10 · 10.LL.16

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mira hid the key.	**ACTIVE**	Mira is the subject and does the hiding.
2	The treaty was signed by both leaders.	**PASSIVE**	The treaty is the subject and receives the action of signing.
3	The invoice was approved by the manager.	**PASSIVE**	The invoice is the subject and receives the action of approval.
4	The moon painted the windows.	**ACTIVE**	The moon is the subject and does the figurative painting.
5	The council published the report.	**ACTIVE**	The council is the subject and does the publishing.
6	The samples were tested by the lab.	**PASSIVE**	The samples are the subject and receive the action of testing.
7	The supervisor changed the schedule.	**ACTIVE**	The supervisor is the subject and does the changing.
8	The witness opened the door.	**ACTIVE**	The witness is the subject and does the opening.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how its subject and verb helped you decide. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACTIVE**: The baker kneaded the dough.
- **PASSIVE**: The mural was restored by the artist.

Challenge: The manager approved the invoice. This version draws attention to the manager's action instead of putting the invoice first.

For Part 2, explanations should identify the subject and whether it does or receives the action. For example, in item 3 the invoice receives the manager's approval, while in item 4 the moon does the figurative painting.