Keep the Tone

Sort the tone in city council proposals.

10.LL.19.a "Exhibit stylistic consistency in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONSISTENT FORMAL TONE

Both sentences use professional language suitable for a city council proposal.

The city should digitize fragile maps at the archive. This investment would preserve historical records.

SHIFT TO CASUAL TONE

One sentence sounds professional, but another switches to slang or chatty language.

The city should replace the arts center's damaged stage curtains. The old ones look totally busted.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each proposal; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which words helped you decide.

1.	The city should plant shade trees along Oak Street. Additional trees would reduce summer heat for pedestrians.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
2.	The city should install brighter lights near the library. Improved lighting would make the entrance easier to navigate at night.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
3.	The city should build covered bus shelters. Waiting in the rain is a total drag.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
4.	The city should repaint the crosswalk near Central High School. Clear markings would help drivers notice people crossing.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
5.	The city should clean the storm drains before winter. Clogged drains are seriously nasty.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
6.	The city should add bike racks near the market. Parking a bike there is a huge pain right now.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
7.	The city should expand public restroom hours at the park. Longer hours would improve access for evening visitors.	CONSISTENT SHIFT
8.	The city should repair cracked sidewalks on Pine Avenue. Smoother paths would reduce tripping hazards.	CONSISTENT SHIFT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new, two-sentence city council proposals: one with a consistent formal tone and one that shifts from formal to casual.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFT _____

CHALLENGE

Revise your tone-shift proposal into two formal sentences while keeping its main idea.

ANSWER KEY

Keep the Tone

GRADE 10 · 10.LL.19.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The city should plant shade trees along Oak Street. Additional trees would reduce summer heat for pedestrians.	**CONSISTENT**	Both sentences maintain a professional tone.
2	The city should install brighter lights near the library. Improved lighting would make the entrance easier to navigate at night.	**CONSISTENT**	Both sentences maintain a professional tone.
3	The city should build covered bus shelters. Waiting in the rain is a total drag.	**SHIFT**	"A total drag" shifts to casual language.
4	The city should repaint the crosswalk near Central High School. Clear markings would help drivers notice people crossing.	**CONSISTENT**	Both sentences maintain a professional tone.
5	The city should clean the storm drains before winter. Clogged drains are seriously nasty.	**SHIFT**	"Seriously nasty" shifts to casual language.
6	The city should add bike racks near the market. Parking a bike there is a huge pain right now.	**SHIFT**	"A huge pain right now" shifts to casual language.
7	The city should expand public restroom hours at the park. Longer hours would improve access for evening visitors.	**CONSISTENT**	Both sentences maintain a professional tone.
8	The city should repair cracked sidewalks on Pine Avenue. Smoother paths would reduce tripping hazards.	**CONSISTENT**	Both sentences maintain a professional tone.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CONSISTENT**: The city should repair the public fountain. The work would improve the park's appearance.
- **SHIFT**: The city should repair the public fountain. It looks super gross right now.

Challenge: The city should repair the public fountain. Its current condition detracts from the park's appearance.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify professional wording or a specific casual phrase in each chosen item. For Part 3, check that both examples have two sentences and address a city council audience.