Shape the Rhythm

Sort passages by their sentence patterns.

11.LL.22.a "Exhibit stylistic complexity and sophistication in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

VARIED STRUCTURE

The sentences change their openings, lengths, or structures to guide the reader's attention. The changes serve the meaning, not just make the writing longer.

Inside the observatory, an old telescope revealed Saturn's rings. The astronomer gasped. How sharply they shone!

REPETITIVE STRUCTURE

The sentences use nearly the same opening and structure again and again. Without a clear purpose, this pattern can sound mechanical.

A kettle hissed at breakfast. A kettle rattled at breakfast. A kettle cooled at breakfast.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle VARIED or REPETITIVE for each numbered passage; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which sentence patterns helped you decide.

1.	Because the sidewalk flooded, commuters crowded onto the steps. Buses stalled. Across the street, a shopkeeper laid down towels to catch the water.	VARIED REPETITIVE
2.	The volunteers sorted the books. The volunteers labeled the shelves. The volunteers opened the library.	VARIED REPETITIVE
3.	The debate team gathered at dawn. When the question was announced, every hand rose. A fierce discussion followed.	VARIED REPETITIVE
4.	Raincoats weighed down the hikers' packs, even though the forecast promised sun. By noon, drizzle covered the trail. They were ready.	VARIED REPETITIVE
5.	Our editor checked the sources. Our editor corrected the dates. Our editor published the report.	VARIED REPETITIVE
6.	From the balcony came a clear note. The violinist had begun, and the audience leaned forward to listen. Then the music stopped.	VARIED REPETITIVE
7.	A single vote changed the outcome. No one expected it. After the final count, the committee requested a second review.	VARIED REPETITIVE
8.	The gardeners cleared the beds. The gardeners planted the seeds. The gardeners watered the soil.	VARIED REPETITIVE

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

For Part 3, write one new three-sentence passage in each category about different subjects; in your VARIED passage, change both the sentence openings and the sentence lengths.

VARIED

REPETITIVE

CHALLENGE

Revise one REPETITIVE passage from Part 1 into a VARIED passage without changing its main ideas; use a dependent clause and a short sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Shape the Rhythm

GRADE 11 · 11.LL.22.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Because the sidewalk flooded, commuters crowded onto the steps. Buses stalled. Across the street, a shopkeeper laid down towels to catch the water.	**VARIED**	A dependent clause opens the first sentence, a short sentence follows, and a place phrase opens the longer final sentence.
2	The volunteers sorted the books. The volunteers labeled the shelves. The volunteers opened the library.	**REPETITIVE**	All three sentences begin with "The volunteers" and use the same subject-verb-object structure.
3	The debate team gathered at dawn. When the question was announced, every hand rose. A fierce discussion followed.	**VARIED**	The middle sentence begins with a time clause, while the first and last sentences have different openings and lengths.
4	Raincoats weighed down the hikers' packs, even though the forecast promised sun. By noon, drizzle covered the trail. They were ready.	**VARIED**	The passage shifts from a longer sentence with a dependent clause to a sentence with an introductory phrase, then a short closing sentence.
5	Our editor checked the sources. Our editor corrected the dates. Our editor published the report.	**REPETITIVE**	Each sentence starts with "Our editor" and follows the same subject-verb-object pattern.
6	From the balcony came a clear note. The violinist had begun, and the audience leaned forward to listen. Then the music stopped.	**VARIED**	An inverted opening, a longer compound sentence, and a short final sentence create distinct structures.
7	A single vote changed the outcome. No one expected it. After the final count, the committee requested a second review.	**VARIED**	The sentences have different openings and lengths, including a short middle sentence and an introductory phrase at the end.
8	The gardeners cleared the beds. The gardeners planted the seeds. The gardeners watered the soil.	**REPETITIVE**	All three sentences repeat "The gardeners" and use the same subject-verb-object structure.

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)

- **VARIED**: Beyond the stadium, lights glowed in the fog. A whistle sounded. As the runners reached the final bend, the crowd rose to its feet.
- **REPETITIVE**: The custodian locked the doors. The custodian dimmed the lights. The custodian checked the alarms.

Challenge: After the volunteers sorted the books, they labeled the shelves. They opened the library.

For Part 2, item 2 repeats its opening and structure, while item 3 changes its openings and includes a time clause. Accept explanations for any two items that cite specific sentence patterns.