Voice Under Control

Keep a research report's voice steady.

12.LL.22.a "Exhibit stylistic complexity, sophistication, and consistency in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONSISTENTLY FORMAL

A research report keeps a measured, precise tone throughout. Sentence structures can vary without changing that tone.

Despite limited rainfall, native shrubs flourished. Their roots reached deep groundwater.

SHIFT TO CASUAL

A passage shifts register when it begins formally but slips into casual speech. That change makes its style inconsistent for a research report.

Despite limited rainfall, native shrubs flourished. Their roots did a pretty awesome job.

1 SORT

8 items

For each research-report passage, circle FORMAL or SHIFT; then choose one item from each category and explain which words guided your choices.

1.	Although the river rose overnight, the flood barriers held. As a result, nearby homes remained dry.	FORMAL SHIFT
2.	The museum extended its hours after attendance increased. Visitors could then explore the exhibits without long waits.	FORMAL SHIFT
3.	The study identified a decline in bicycle traffic. Basically, fewer people were riding, which is kinda wild.	FORMAL SHIFT
4.	The council approved the revised budget. That plan is gonna save us a bunch of cash.	FORMAL SHIFT
5.	The excavation revealed several clay vessels. Turns out, those pots are super old.	FORMAL SHIFT
6.	Because the software detected errors early, technicians corrected them before release. This process reduced the need for later updates.	FORMAL SHIFT
7.	The report compared two routes through the mountain pass. One route was, like, way easier to use.	FORMAL SHIFT
8.	The school adjusted its start time following a transportation review. Consequently, buses operated on a more reliable schedule.	FORMAL SHIFT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain which words guided your choices.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new two-sentence passages for a research report. Keep both sentences formal in the first passage; begin formally but shift to casual wording in the second.

FORMAL

SHIFT

CHALLENGE

Choose one SHIFT item from Part 1 and rewrite its second sentence so the whole passage stays formal without changing its meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Voice Under Control

GRADE 12 · 12.LL.22.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Although the river rose overnight, the flood barriers held. As a result, nearby homes remained dry.	**FORMAL**	Both sentences use measured language, and the transition clarifies the result.
2	The museum extended its hours after attendance increased. Visitors could then explore the exhibits without long waits.	**FORMAL**	Both sentences maintain a precise, formal tone.
3	The study identified a decline in bicycle traffic. Basically, fewer people were riding, which is kinda wild.	**SHIFT**	"Kinda wild" shifts from report language to casual speech.
4	The council approved the revised budget. That plan is gonna save us a bunch of cash.	**SHIFT**	"Gonna" and "a bunch of cash" introduce casual wording.
5	The excavation revealed several clay vessels. Turns out, those pots are super old.	**SHIFT**	"Turns out" and "super old" shift to a casual, imprecise tone.
6	Because the software detected errors early, technicians corrected them before release. This process reduced the need for later updates.	**FORMAL**	The sentences connect cause and effect while maintaining formal diction.
7	The report compared two routes through the mountain pass. One route was, like, way easier to use.	**SHIFT**	"Like" and "way easier" interrupt the formal register.
8	The school adjusted its start time following a transportation review. Consequently, buses operated on a more reliable schedule.	**FORMAL**	The passage maintains a measured tone and uses a precise transition.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain which words guided your choices.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL**: Because the survey excluded weekend visitors, its findings may understate total attendance. A broader sample would improve the estimate.
- **SHIFT**: The committee reviewed three proposals before selecting a design. The last option was, honestly, a total win.

Challenge: Item 7: The report compared two routes through the mountain pass. One route was considerably easier to use.

For Part 2, look for one explanation citing steady formal language and one citing specific casual wording. Accept challenge rewrites that preserve the original meaning and remove the register shift.