Keep the Tone

Sort school-report passages by their writing style.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONSISTENT FORMAL TONE	SHIFT TO CASUAL TONE
Both sentences use precise, formal language suited to a school report.	The passage begins formally, but a casual expression changes its tone.
The museum cataloged its artifacts. Curators recorded each object's origin.	The aquarium introduced a conservation program. Saving reefs is totally awesome.

1 SORT

8 items

For SORT, circle STEADY or SHIFT for each item; for PROVE IT, choose two items, one from each category, and explain which words helped you decide.

1.	The library expanded its digital collection. Those new titles are super cool.	STEADY SHIFT
2.	The city repaired several damaged sidewalks. Crews completed the work before winter.	STEADY SHIFT
3.	The survey included 120 students. Most respondents preferred a later start time.	STEADY SHIFT
4.	The committee reviewed the budget. The final numbers are kind of wild.	STEADY SHIFT
5.	The laboratory tested three soil samples. Results indicated low levels of lead.	STEADY SHIFT
6.	The school planted native trees near the entrance. These plants provide shade for visitors.	STEADY SHIFT
7.	The train station installed brighter lights. The change improved visibility on the platform.	STEADY SHIFT
8.	The clinic added evening appointments. That new schedule is a big win for patients.	STEADY SHIFT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items, one from each category, and explain which words helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new two-sentence passages for a school report: one STEADY passage with a formal tone throughout and one SHIFT passage that begins formally but ends with a casual phrase.

STEADY _____

SHIFT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one SHIFT item from SORT, rewrite its casual sentence to match the formal tone, and name the phrase you replaced.

ANSWER KEY

Keep the Tone

GRADE 9 · 9.LL.19.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The library expanded its digital collection. Those new titles are super cool.	**SHIFT**	The casual phrase "super cool" changes the formal tone.
2	The city repaired several damaged sidewalks. Crews completed the work before winter.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use straightforward, formal language.
3	The survey included 120 students. Most respondents preferred a later start time.	**STEADY**	Both sentences maintain the precise tone of a report.
4	The committee reviewed the budget. The final numbers are kind of wild.	**SHIFT**	The casual phrase "kind of wild" changes the formal tone.
5	The laboratory tested three soil samples. Results indicated low levels of lead.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use precise, formal language.
6	The school planted native trees near the entrance. These plants provide shade for visitors.	**STEADY**	Both sentences maintain a formal, informative tone.
7	The train station installed brighter lights. The change improved visibility on the platform.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use clear language suited to a report.
8	The clinic added evening appointments. That new schedule is a big win for patients.	**SHIFT**	The casual phrase "a big win" changes the formal tone.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items, one from each category, and explain which words 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)

- **STEADY**: The orchard reduced water use this season. Workers installed a more efficient irrigation system.
- **SHIFT**: The planetarium added a weekend show. Its new schedule is pretty sweet.

Challenge: Item 1: The library expanded its digital collection. The new titles offer readers additional choices. I replaced "super cool" with "offer readers additional choices."

SORT answers: 1 SHIFT, 2 STEADY, 3 STEADY, 4 SHIFT, 5 STEADY, 6 STEADY, 7 STEADY, 8 SHIFT. For PROVE IT, look for an explanation that identifies a casual phrase in a SHIFT item and notes the formal language throughout a STEADY item.