Match the Tone

Listen for formality, interpret the message, and respond.

9.LL.17 "Classify formality of language in order to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FORMAL

Formal language fits official messages and serious situations. It uses courteous, precise wording and avoids slang.

To the museum director: I would appreciate details regarding the exhibit schedule.

INFORMAL

Informal language fits casual conversations with people you know well. It often uses slang, contractions, or a relaxed tone.

Yo, that pizza was awesome!

1 SORT

8 items

Teacher or partner: read each item aloud twice, naming its number. Listeners cover the item text, listen, and circle FORMAL or INFORMAL. Then uncover the text to check. For Part 2, explain wording you heard in two items and what each message means.

1.	Dear Principal, I respectfully request permission to leave early.	FORMAL INFORMAL
2.	That test was brutal, dude!	FORMAL INFORMAL
3.	Wanna hang out after practice?	FORMAL INFORMAL
4.	You are kindly requested to submit the completed application by Friday.	FORMAL INFORMAL
5.	We regret to inform you that the event has been postponed.	FORMAL INFORMAL
6.	I am writing to inquire about the internship requirements.	FORMAL INFORMAL
7.	No way, that movie cracked me up!	FORMAL INFORMAL
8.	Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.	FORMAL INFORMAL

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

Prepare one FORMAL and one INFORMAL sentence. Say each to a partner without showing the text. The listener identifies the formality, explains the message, and gives a suitable reply; then switch roles.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one INFORMAL item as a FORMAL sentence, then name a word or phrase you changed.

ANSWER KEY

Match the Tone

GRADE 9 · 9.LL.17

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Dear Principal, I respectfully request permission to leave early.	**FORMAL**	The official greeting and courteous phrase 'respectfully request' signal formality.
2	That test was brutal, dude!	**INFORMAL**	The slang 'brutal' and casual address 'dude' signal informality.
3	Wanna hang out after practice?	**INFORMAL**	The casual expressions 'wanna' and 'hang out' signal informality.
4	You are kindly requested to submit the completed application by Friday.	**FORMAL**	The courteous, official phrasing 'kindly requested to submit' signals formality.
5	We regret to inform you that the event has been postponed.	**FORMAL**	The conventional official phrase 'regret to inform you' signals formality.
6	I am writing to inquire about the internship requirements.	**FORMAL**	The letter-style opening and precise verb 'inquire' signal formality.
7	No way, that movie cracked me up!	**INFORMAL**	The casual expressions 'No way' and 'cracked me up' signal informality.
8	Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.	**FORMAL**	The courteous closing phrase 'thank you for your consideration' signals formality.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept an explanation that answers every part of the task and identifies the deciding feature for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FORMAL**: Dear Coach, I respectfully request a copy of the team schedule.
- **INFORMAL**: Hey, send me the game times when you can!

Challenge: The examination was particularly difficult. I replaced 'brutal, dude' with precise wording.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify specific wording, not just a category name. For the challenge, the rewrite should keep the original meaning while changing the tone. Conduct the read-aloud before students consult item text. For Part 2, also check accurate interpretation of each message. Observe both partners listening and replying; written classifications alone do not demonstrate listening. Judge wording and context, not accent.