

Purposeful Proposals

Trace how structure and details strengthen a proposal.

7.10.B “develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing by: organizing with purposeful structure, including an introduction, transitions, coherence within and across paragraphs, and a conclusion...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB The school situation is invented for this model proposal. Underline the sentence that states the proposal and the sentence that restates it at the end, circle transition words or phrases, and number three specific supporting details 1 to 3.

A Rain Garden for Our School

- ① After heavy rain, water rushes from our school parking lot into a storm drain. That runoff can carry oil, litter, and soil toward local streams. Our campus should build a rain garden beside the lot to slow and clean some of that water. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that temporarily collects runoff. It would turn an unused strip of grass into a working space for science classes and a practical way to protect nearby waterways.
- ② First, the garden could reduce the force of runoff during storms. Instead of flowing straight across pavement, water would enter the garden and soak into its soil over time. Deep roots from native plants help hold soil in place, which can limit erosion. Seventh graders could measure rainfall, sketch plant growth, and compare puddles before and after the garden is built. These details show that the project would serve both the environment and students' learning needs.
- ③ However, a rain garden needs planning and care. The school should choose plants suited to the local climate and ask a landscape professional to place the garden away from building foundations and underground utilities. During the first growing season, students and staff may need to water new plants when rainfall is low and remove weeds. Even with those responsibilities, the benefits are clear. By building a rain garden, our school can study nature firsthand while helping keep runoff out of streams.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What proposal does the first paragraph introduce? Give the two main purposes of the proposal.

2 What does the transition word "First" show about the second paragraph's job in the piece?

3 Choose two specific details from the second paragraph. Explain how each detail supports the proposal.

4 What concern does the final paragraph acknowledge, and how does the paragraph answer that concern?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Develop an initial draft into a 120-160-word proposal for one improvement at your school or in your community. In the revised proposal, use exactly three paragraphs: introduce a clear claim, develop it with at least two specific facts, details, or examples and transitions, then conclude by addressing one concern and restating your recommendation.

1. Initial draft

Write your first version here. Develop your claim with specific support and an ending; keep this draft so you can compare it with your revision.

[illegible]

2. Revised proposal

Reread your draft. Improve its organization and develop its details, then write the complete 120-160-word, three-paragraph proposal here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

3. Explain your changes

Identify one organizational change and one added or improved supporting detail. Explain how each makes your proposal clearer or more convincing.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

The school situation is invented for this model proposal. Underline the sentence that states the proposal and the sentence that restates it at the end, circle transition words or phrases, and number three specific supporting details 1 to 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What proposal does the first paragraph introduce? Give the two main purposes of the proposal.	Build a rain garden beside the parking lot to help manage polluted runoff and provide a science learning space. Protecting waterways is part of the runoff-management purpose.
2	What does the transition word "First" show about the second paragraph's job in the piece?	It signals that the second paragraph gives the first reason or supporting point for building the rain garden.
3	Choose two specific details from the second paragraph. Explain how each detail supports the proposal.	Possible details: Native plant roots hold soil and can limit erosion. Students could measure rainfall, sketch plant growth, and compare puddles, showing the garden would support learning.
4	What concern does the final paragraph acknowledge, and how does the paragraph answer that concern?	It acknowledges that a rain garden needs planning and care. It explains that the school can select suitable plants, use a professional for placement, water new plants during low rainfall, and remove weeds.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a covered bike rack near the main entrance. Now, students who ride bicycles leave them in open racks, where seats and handlebars get wet during rain. A roofed rack would make biking a more practical choice and would keep the walkway clearer than bicycles leaned against fences.

First, the rack could hold twelve bicycles in two neat rows. The school could place it on the paved area beside the existing rack, so no grass would need to be removed. Clear signs could ask riders to lock their bicycles and leave the entrance open. In addition, science classes could track how many students use the rack each month.

A covered rack would cost money and require regular checks for loose bolts or litter. However, a small, planned structure would protect bikes and support students who choose an active trip to school. For these reasons, the school should add the rack before next year's rainy season.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the proposal's structure, transitions, and supporting details when they are supported by the passage. For the writing task, accept varied topics if the response has exactly three coherent paragraphs, a clear claim, specific development, transitions, and a conclusion that addresses a concern. Require both an initial draft and a developed revision, plus an explanation of an organizational change and an improved detail. Assess whether the changes strengthen focus, structure, coherence and development. Count only the revised proposal toward 120-160 words. The printed sample illustrates a possible final proposal, not evidence of completed drafting. Both school situations are invented; students should distinguish proposed details from observed facts. Rain-garden background: U.S. EPA, Types of Green Infrastructure, Bioretention (Rain Gardens), <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/types-green-infrastructure>. Site suitability and maintenance require local planning.