

Before the Broadcast

Trace how an opening problem develops through a narrator's choices.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3a "Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that establish the narrator or another character, circle the opening problem, and number five major events in order to trace how the situation develops.

The Locked Studio

- ① At 3:12 on Monday afternoon, I stood outside the locked school radio studio with the introduction to our robotics showcase crumpled in my hand. The livestream would begin at 3:30, and I had volunteered to host it alone. Through the window, the ON AIR sign looked dark above the control board. My partner, Lena, usually checked the microphones and music levels, but her bus was delayed on the way back from a competition. I had promised the club adviser that everything would be ready. Now I could not even reach the console, and Lena had not answered my message.
- ② I tried the handle again, then called Lena. Voicemail. At 3:15, our adviser texted to ask whether I had tested the microphone. My stomach tightened as I pictured families opening a livestream with no sound. Then I remembered that the office kept a spare studio key. I hurried downstairs and explained the problem to Mrs. Ortiz. She checked the key log and handed me the key. When I returned at 3:18, I unlocked the door, set my introduction beside the microphone and switched on the console. I still had twelve minutes to prepare.
- ③ I put on the headphones and spoke into the microphone, watching the sound meter rise. At 3:24, Lena arrived and pointed to the music channel, which was much louder than my voice. I lowered that slider and tested the introduction again. This time every word sounded clear. At 3:30, I pressed the broadcast button, waited for the ON AIR sign to light and welcomed the families watching. Lena stood behind the glass with both thumbs raised. Only after introducing the first team did I notice that I had smoothed the crumpled page flat beneath my hand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem is introduced in the first paragraph, and why is it urgent?

2 What point of view tells this story? Give two details that show how the narrator personally experiences the situation.

3 List three major events from the middle of the passage in the order they happen. Explain how these events move the narrator toward solving the problem.

4 What outcome resolves the immediate problem? What final detail shows the narrator's reaction to that outcome?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 120 to 150 word first-person scene about a time-sensitive problem. Establish the narrator and another character, introduce the problem by the second sentence, and show at least three events in a clear sequence that leads to an outcome.

Write a coherent scene

Keep the time, speakers and actions consistent. Use paragraph breaks where they help the reader follow the scene. Reread to check that each event prepares for the next.

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.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that establish the narrator or another character, circle the opening problem, and number five major events in order to trace how the situation develops. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem is introduced in the first paragraph, and why is it urgent?	The narrator is locked out of the studio before a robotics livestream scheduled for 3:30. The host needs time to enter, prepare and test the sound before families begin watching.
2	What point of view tells this story? Give two details that show how the narrator personally experiences the situation.	First-person point of view: the narrator says "I stood" and describes a tightening stomach and the imagined embarrassment of a silent livestream.
3	List three major events from the middle of the passage in the order they happen. Explain how these events move the narrator toward solving the problem.	The adviser asks about the microphone test, the narrator obtains the spare key, and the narrator unlocks the studio and switches on the console. These linked actions make preparation possible before the deadline.
4	What outcome resolves the immediate problem? What final detail shows the narrator's reaction to that outcome?	The narrator welcomes viewers at 3:30 after testing the sound. Lena raises her thumbs, and the narrator notices the once-crumpled page has been smoothed flat, suggesting growing composure.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Scene: At 3:40, I found the auditorium dark and the seats already filling for the debate tournament. I was supposed to introduce our team, but the note cards with every speaker's name were missing from my folder. Marcus, our captain, searched beneath the podium while I checked the hallway. First, I asked the stage manager whether anyone had turned in a stack of blue cards. She shook her head, then pointed toward the lobby, where a gust from the open doors had scattered papers beside the ticket table. Next, Marcus and I gathered the cards and put them in order. When the judge called our school, I stepped to the microphone with thirty seconds left. Marcus stood beside the curtain, holding up the final card when I needed it.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

The sample scene contains 128 words, excluding its Scene label. Require 120-150 words, first-person viewpoint, a narrator and another character, a problem by sentence 2, and at least three connected events leading to an outcome. Accept different scenarios and sensible paragraph choices. In the reading, the eighteen minutes from 3:12 end at 3:30; entry at 3:18 leaves twelve minutes, and Lena arrives at 3:24 before the 3:30 broadcast. The narrator welcomes families on the livestream after testing the sound. Final composure is a supported inference, not a stated emotion. For event marking, accept a consistent sequence such as lockout, message from adviser, key retrieval, sound test and broadcast. All narrative characters and events are fictional.