

Draft Detective

Track planning, feedback, revision, and editing in a model paragraph.

ELA.4.C.1.5 "Improve writing by planning, revising, and editing, with guidance and support from adults and feedback from peers."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read this fictional classroom example. Underline words that show feedback from a peer or teacher. Number the four changes Mina made after feedback or editing to trace how her writing improved.

Mina's Bean Seed Directions

- ① Mina planned a how-to paragraph about planting bean seeds in paper cups with drainage holes. She listed the steps in order: fill a cup with damp soil, press in a seed, cover it, and set the cup near a sunny window. Her plan helped her remember what a reader needed to know. Then she wrote a first draft.
- ② Her partner, Eli, read the draft and said, "I can picture the steps, but I do not know how deep to press the seed." Mina revised her middle sentence to say, "Press the seed about one inch into the soil, following the seed packet's directions." She also moved the window step to the end because it happens after planting the seed.
- ③ Next, Mina and her teacher read the revised paragraph aloud. Her teacher asked her to check each sentence for capitals and end marks. Mina changed "beans grow fast" to "Beans grow fast." She also changed "check the soil each day" to "Check the soil each day." The final paragraph gave clear steps and used complete sentences so another student could follow the directions without asking for help.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What planning action helped Mina put her directions in order?

2 What detail did Eli say was missing from Mina's draft?

3 What two revisions did Mina make after Eli's feedback?

4 During teacher-supported editing, which two sentences did Mina change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a simple task you know how to do. Write a three-step plan and a three- or four-sentence how-to paragraph, ask a peer for one suggestion, revise your paragraph, and work with an adult to make one edit. Below your paragraph, write the peer suggestion and the edit you made. Keep a visible first draft and a separate revised paragraph. Record the peer's real suggestion and the adult's guidance, then show the adult-supported edit.

1. Plan and first draft

List your three steps. Then add the heading Draft and write your first three- or four-sentence paragraph.

2. Peer and adult feedback

Ask a peer for a suggestion about a missing or unclear step. Ask an adult to help check conventions. Write one comment from each.

3. Revised how-to paragraph

Use the feedback to write three or four clear sentences. Check your edit with the adult.

4. Feedback and edit record

Below your paragraph, name the peer suggestion you used and show one before-and-after edit made with the adult.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read this fictional classroom example. Underline words that show feedback from a peer or teacher. Number the four changes Mina made after feedback or editing to trace how her writing improved. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What planning action helped Mina put her directions in order?	She listed the planting steps in order before writing her draft.
2	What detail did Eli say was missing from Mina's draft?	He did not know how deep to press the seed.
3	What two revisions did Mina make after Eli's feedback?	She added the depth of about one inch, following the seed packet's directions, and moved the window step to the end.
4	During teacher-supported editing, which two sentences did Mina change?	"beans grow fast" became "Beans grow fast." and "check the soil each day" became "Check the soil each day."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Three-step plan: 1. Put apple slices in a bowl. 2. Add yogurt. 3. Add granola.

First draft: Put apple slices in a bowl. Spoon yogurt over the apples. Sprinkle granola on top

Peer suggestion: Tell readers when to eat the snack.

Adult guidance: Check the missing end mark after top.

Revised paragraph: To make an apple snack, put apple slices in a bowl. Spoon yogurt over the apples, then sprinkle granola on top. Eat the snack right away so the granola stays crunchy.

Record: I used the peer suggestion by adding the last sentence. With adult guidance, I changed "top" at the end of the sentence to "top." by adding the missing period.

Require the three-step plan, visible first draft, actual peer feedback and adult support, a revised three- or four-sentence paragraph, and a record below it naming the peer suggestion and adult-supported edit. The fictional model keeps the original missing period visible and shows the corrected version. Reading background: University of Minnesota Extension, Growing beans in home gardens (extension.umn.edu); depth depends on the seed packet. Check soil moisture rather than watering automatically each day; containers need drainage.