Creek Cleanup Copyedit

Find and repair conventions errors in a field report.

9.P.EICC.4.h "Edit the text, ensuring it adheres to the conventions of written language. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each of the 10 conventions errors in the passage and number them 1 through 10. Then use your marks to decide how each sentence should be edited.

Restoring Harbor Creek

1. On Saturday, volunteers at Harbor Creek restored a neglected stream bank. The project begins at eight o'clock, but several students arrives before sunrise to carry gloves and shovels. Ms. Patel, the science teacher, explains that native plants hold soil in place, they also create shelter for insects and small fish. At the water's edge, teams sorted litter into bags. The park rangers map showed where earlier floods had cut into the bank. Working beside the creek. By noon, volunteers had cleared three truckloads of trash and planted young switchgrass.

2. The group worked from a plan created by the city's watershed office. Each crew have a different task: one crew removes invasive vines, and another records the plants already growing there. The students' notes include counts of willow stems and dragonflies. Near a culvert, a pair of beavers builds a low dam, the workers pause so the animals can move safely downstream. The tools belong in the supply trailer after use. When the final bags are weighed, the totals from each team is added to the project log. The day's work will guide next month's planting.

3. Restoration continues after the workday ends. City staff checks the site after heavy rain, and the volunteers return each month to remove new weeds. The creeks water looks clearer in some places, but scientists need several years of data to measure larger changes. The creek support frogs, herons, and many kinds of insects. Residents can help by keeping leaves, paint, and oil out of storm drains. A clean bank does not solve every problem, it gives the stream a stronger chance to recover. The project shows how careful work and regular observation can protect a shared place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Rewrite the sentence that begins “The project begins” so its subject and verb agree.

2. Correct the punctuation in the sentence that begins “Ms. Patel.”

3. In the phrase “The park rangers map,” add the apostrophe correctly. Write the corrected phrase.

4. Revise the fragment “Working beside the creek.” into a complete sentence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70-90-word announcement inviting students to a local environmental service event. Then edit your final copy for complete sentences, subject-verb agreement, possessive apostrophes, and comma use. Include at least one possessive noun and one compound sentence joined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · 9.P.EICC.4.h

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each of the 10 conventions errors in the passage and number them 1 through 10. Then use your marks to decide how each sentence should be edited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Rewrite the sentence that begins "The project begins" so its subject and verb agree.	**The project begins at eight o'clock, but several students arrive before sunrise to carry gloves and shovels.**
2	Correct the punctuation in the sentence that begins "Ms. Patel."	**Ms. Patel, the science teacher, explains that native plants hold soil in place; they also create shelter for insects and small fish.**
3	In the phrase "The park rangers map," add the apostrophe correctly. Write the corrected phrase.	**The park rangers' map**
4	Revise the fragment "Working beside the creek." into a complete sentence.	**Volunteers worked beside the creek.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Join the Westview Ecology Club on Friday at Pine Street Park, where we will test the water near the rain garden. After students receive their equipment, they will measure temperature, cloudiness, and pH, and the club's adviser will record the results. Each team will label its sample bottle carefully and return unused tools to the storage cart. The data will help the city compare this season's water quality with last spring's results. Bring a refillable bottle and shoes that can get muddy.

The ten intended edits are: (1) students arrives -> students arrive; (2) soil in place, they also -> soil in place; they also; (3) park rangers map -> park rangers' map; (4) Working beside the creek. -> Volunteers worked beside the creek.; (5) Each crew have -> Each crew has; (6) builds a low dam, the workers -> builds a low dam; the workers; (7) totals from each team is -> totals from each team are; (8) creeks water -> creek's water; (9) creek support -> creek supports; (10) problem, it gives -> problem; it gives. That is four subject-verb agreement errors, three comma splices, two possessive apostrophes and one fragment. The colon-led crew-task list now includes and, so it is not an additional splice. Staff may take singular agreement as a collective noun. Accept valid meaning-preserving alternatives, including periods or comma-plus-conjunction for splices, and reasonable tense-consistency edits without counting them as the ten designated targets. For the 70-to-90-word own announcement, check actual editing, complete sentences, agreement, apostrophes, comma use, one possessive noun and one compound sentence; the model is within range.