Keep the Draft Moving

Read how a writer completes a draft in one sitting.

7.W.6.c "Demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to produce writing with stamina in a single sitting."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action in each paragraph that helps the writer keep typing or return to the draft without a long pause. Number the actions 1, 2, and 3 in the order they happen.

Twenty Minutes at the Keyboard

1. At 4:10, I opened a blank document to write a story about a closed movie theater. I had twenty minutes before the library closed. I typed a working title, then wrote one plain sentence about a cracked ticket window. My fingers kept moving as I added the smell of popcorn in the empty lobby. I did not stop to hunt for the perfect opening. When I could not spell "marquee," I typed "sign" instead and continued to the next sentence. The story was rough, but the page was no longer blank.

2. At 4:17, I reached the part where a character entered the dark theater. I pressed Enter to start a new paragraph and described her flashlight crossing the seats. My first sentence said, "The seats was dusty." I tapped Backspace to remove "was," typed "were," and kept going. I could hear a cart rolling past my library table, but I stayed with the scene. When I did not know what my character would find, I typed a question for myself in brackets and moved on to the sound of footsteps.

3. At 4:29, I wrote the final line: the footsteps belonged to the theater's caretaker. I used the arrow keys to return to my bracketed question and replaced it with a clue about his flashlight. I read the last few sentences once, fixed a missing period, and saved the document before 4:30. I had stayed at the keyboard for the whole sitting, even when the story felt messy. A working beginning, middle, and end mattered more than a flawless first draft, and I had all three.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. When the writer could not spell a word, what did they type to keep the draft moving?

2. Which key did the writer use for a quick grammar correction, and what did they change?

3. What did the writer type when they did not know what the character would find?

4. How did the writer return to that question and finish the spot in the draft?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Set a 12-minute timer and type one 75 to 95 word paragraph about a lunch tray that moves across a school cafeteria on its own; keep working in the document and make at least one quick keyboard correction as you write. Submit your typed paragraph, and use the lines below to record its word count, your correction, and its first and last sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Keep the Draft Moving

GRADE 7 · 7.W.6.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action in each paragraph that helps the writer keep typing or return to the draft without a long pause. Number the actions 1, 2, and 3 in the order they happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	When the writer could not spell a word, what did they type to keep the draft moving?	**The writer typed “sign” instead of stopping to spell “marquee.”**
2	Which key did the writer use for a quick grammar correction, and what did they change?	**The writer used Backspace to remove “was” and typed “were” in its place.**
3	What did the writer type when they did not know what the character would find?	**The writer typed a question in brackets and kept going.**
4	How did the writer return to that question and finish the spot in the draft?	**The writer used the arrow keys to return to the question and replaced it with a clue about the caretaker’s flashlight.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Typed paragraph: At lunch, a tray slid away from my table before anyone touched it. It skimmed past a row of backpacks and stopped beside the recycling bin. I followed it, expecting to find a string, but there was nothing attached. The tray rattled, and a tiny paper crane rose from beneath a sandwich. It unfolded one wing and pointed toward the kitchen door. When I looked back, the tray had slid through the swinging door, leaving the sandwich and a trail of crumbs behind.

Record: 83 words. Correction: I used Backspace to change “skim” to “skimmed.” First sentence: At lunch, a tray slid away from my table before anyone touched it. Last sentence: When I looked back, the tray had slid through the swinging door, leaving the sandwich and a trail of crumbs behind.

For Part 1, accept any action in each paragraph that helps the writer continue or return to the draft. For Part 3, check the submitted document for one 75 to 95 word paragraph and the sheet for a matching word count, correction, and first and last sentences.