From Draft to Decision

Trace how a writer shapes a proposal for its audience.

8.W.5.a "Employ the writing process by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's first-draft claim and her rewritten request. Circle a detail she added during revision, then number where she plans, drafts, revises, and edits in the order those steps occur.

A Roof for the Racks

1. At the end of October, the bike racks outside Cedar Middle School were packed, and rain had soaked several seats. Maya wanted the principal to install a roof over the racks. Before writing, she listed her audience, her goal, and two reasons: dry seats and more students willing to ride. Her first draft began, "Our bike racks are terrible. A roof would fix everything." She added a long story about her own wet backpack, then ended without asking for a specific action. When she reread it, the main request was hard to find.

2. Maya asked her classmate Luis to read the draft as if he were the principal. Luis circled "fix everything" and wrote, "Would a roof solve the crowded racks?" He also noted that the backpack story took up more space than the proposal. Maya returned to her plan and narrowed her goal: request a roof, not promise to solve crowding. She moved the request to the opening and replaced the backpack story with a detail any rider might recognize, a wet seat after morning rain. She also kept riding as a possible benefit.

3. Her rewritten opening said, "Please consider adding a roof over the bike racks. After morning rain, riders often find wet seats before class." Maya then added, "Keeping seats dry could make riding to school more appealing, though a roof would not add parking spaces." During editing, she changed "kids" to "students" for her formal audience and checked that the request named the bike racks clearly. Her final version gave the principal a focused request, a concrete reason, and a limit on what the change could do.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya's first draft fall short of the goal in her plan?

2. What did Luis question about "fix everything," and how did Maya revise her claim in response?

3. What detail replaced the backpack story, and how did that change strengthen the proposal for the principal?

4. Which word did Maya change during editing, and why did the new word fit her audience?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different school improvement. Write a one-sentence plan naming your audience and goal, a two-sentence first draft, and a two-sentence rewrite that strengthens one reason. Finish with one sentence naming the change you made.

From Draft to Decision

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's first-draft claim and her rewritten request. Circle a detail she added during revision, then number where she plans, drafts, revises, and edits in the order those steps occur. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya's first draft fall short of the goal in her plan?	**She planned to request a roof, but her draft made a broad claim and ended without asking for a specific action.**
2	What did Luis question about "fix everything," and how did Maya revise her claim in response?	**Luis questioned whether a roof would solve crowding. Maya narrowed her claim to keeping seats dry and acknowledged that a roof would not add parking spaces.**
3	What detail replaced the backpack story, and how did that change strengthen the proposal for the principal?	**Maya used the detail of a wet seat after morning rain. It gave the principal a reason that could matter to any rider, not just Maya.**
4	Which word did Maya change during editing, and why did the new word fit her audience?	**She changed "kids" to "students." The new word better suited a proposal to the principal.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: I want our principal to add a water bottle filling station so students can refill bottles between classes. Draft: Our drinking fountains are bad. We need a new one right away. Rewrite: Please consider adding a water bottle filling station near the gym. Students leaving practice could refill bottles there without using the bathroom sinks. Change: I replaced a vague complaint with a specific request and reason.

Accept reasonable wording that identifies the same choices and explains how each change serves Maya's purpose or audience. In Part 3, look for a distinct plan, two draft sentences, two rewritten sentences, and one sentence identifying a meaningful change.