# Same Event, Different Voice

Choose language for an audience and document a source in MLA style

**9-10.L.3** "Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two phrases in the flyer that invite people to attend. Circle two details in the report that make its account precise, then number the in-text citation and its matching Works Cited entry.

### A Seed Swap in Two Settings

1. Imagine a student editor preparing two pieces about a fictional seed swap at a public library. The first is a flyer for neighbors who might visit next Saturday: "Got extra seeds? Bring a packet to the library. Swap it for something new, and give those empty pots a job!" The short questions and commands leave little room for details, but they make the event sound easy to join. A flyer might be read in a few seconds on a bulletin board. Its job is to attract visitors, not to document what happened at an earlier swap.

2. The editor also writes a report for a school research project about community programs. In a practice interview, volunteer Maya Chen says that 18 visitors came to the previous swap and 11 seed packets changed hands. The report reads: "At the previous library seed swap, 18 people visited, and participants exchanged 11 seed packets (Chen)." This version names the event and gives numbers a reader can check against the interview. It does not promise that a future swap will draw the same crowd. The report speaks to readers who need a measured account rather than an invitation.

3. Before submitting the report, the editor checks an MLA guide. The citation "(Chen)" points readers to the interview's entry in a Works Cited list: "Chen, Maya. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2026." The entry begins with the interviewee's surname and uses an abbreviated month after the day. In the report, quotation marks would be needed around Chen's exact words, but the editor has restated her information instead. An unverified line such as "Everybody in town is excited about seeds" would sound persuasive on a flyer, yet it would weaken a research report that relies on documented evidence.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the flyer's question and commands suit its audience and purpose? Refer to one phrase you marked.

2. Why are the report's numbers more useful to its readers than the flyer's phrase "something new"?

3. A draft report says, "Next Saturday, 18 visitors will come." Explain the problem and revise the sentence for a research report.

4. Edit this Works Cited entry to match the MLA model in the passage: Maya Chen. Personal interview. April 14, 2026.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a different school event and an interview with a named volunteer. Write a one-sentence flyer invitation, then a two-sentence research report with a specific detail from the imagined interview and an MLA parenthetical citation. Add a matching Works Cited entry for an interview dated 6 May 2026.

ANSWER KEY

# Same Event, Different Voice

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.L.3

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases in the flyer that invite people to attend. Circle two details in the report that make its account precise, then number the in-text citation and its matching Works Cited entry. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How do the flyer's question and commands suit its audience and purpose? Refer to one phrase you marked. | **"Got extra seeds?" addresses potential visitors directly, while the commands tell them how to take part. Both help the flyer invite people quickly.** |
| 2 | Why are the report's numbers more useful to its readers than the flyer's phrase "something new"? | **The numbers specify attendance and packets exchanged at the previous swap. "Something new" creates interest but does not document what happened.** |
| 3 | A draft report says, "Next Saturday, 18 visitors will come." Explain the problem and revise the sentence for a research report. | **The interview gives a count for the previous swap, not a prediction. Revision: At the previous library seed swap, 18 people visited (Chen).** |
| 4 | Edit this Works Cited entry to match the MLA model in the passage: Maya Chen. Personal interview. April 14, 2026. | **Chen, Maya. Personal interview. 14 Apr. 2026.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Flyer: Got a book to share? Stop by the school book exchange on Friday and find your next read!
Report: At the previous school book exchange, 24 students attended and 31 books were donated (Ortiz). These counts describe the earlier event, not expected turnout on Friday.
Works Cited: Ortiz, Lina. Personal interview. 6 May 2026.

Accept different wording when students distinguish an invitation from a documented account. In Part 3, check that the report's citation matches the interviewee's surname in a correctly formatted Works Cited entry.