

Draft Detective

Annotate a draft to plan purposeful revisions.

7.10.C “revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and sentence variety;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline vague or general words, circle repeated sentence beginnings, and put a star by any sentence that needs more details or belongs elsewhere. Your marks will help you plan clearer, stronger revisions.

A Rain Garden Proposal

- ① Our school could build a rain garden beside the parking lot. A rain garden is a shallow planted area that collects runoff from roofs, sidewalks, or pavement. The garden is good because it helps with water. It could have plants. Students could look at it. The garden would be near the science wing, where a downspout already sends rainwater across the sidewalk. This location has a problem when storms happen. Puddles often form there after heavy rain.
- ② First, the garden should include native flowers and grasses. Native plants are adapted to local conditions, and their roots can help hold soil in place. For example, purple coneflower attracts pollinators. The principal needs the proposal by Friday. Mulch would cover bare soil and reduce weeds. A curved path could lead visitors past labels that name each plant. These details would make the space useful for science classes and pleasant during lunch. The garden could also support careful observations.
- ③ Building the garden will take work. We will need people to dig, people to carry compost, and people to water young plants. We will need tools. We will need a plan. Maybe the project will be nice. If the rain garden works, less water may flow across the sidewalk, and students may study insects, soil, and plant growth outdoors. The garden can be a place that is good for everybody. Families might visit during community events.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which sentence in paragraph 1 is unclear because it says the garden is “good” without giving a specific benefit?

2 Which sentence in paragraph 2 develops the idea that native plants are a useful choice by explaining why?

3 Which sentence in paragraph 2 interrupts the details about the garden, and where could the writer move it?

4 Name the repeated sentence beginning in paragraph 3, then name two vague terms from that paragraph that could be replaced with more precise words.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Rewrite paragraph 3 in 4 or 5 sentences. Replace both vague terms, vary the repeated sentence beginnings, and add one specific detail about tools, jobs, or planning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline vague or general words, circle repeated sentence beginnings, and put a star by any sentence that needs more details or belongs elsewhere. Your marks will help you plan clearer, stronger revisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in paragraph 1 is unclear because it says the garden is “good” without giving a specific benefit?	“The garden is good because it helps with water.”
2	Which sentence in paragraph 2 develops the idea that native plants are a useful choice by explaining why?	“Native plants are adapted to local conditions, and their roots can help hold soil in place.”
3	Which sentence in paragraph 2 interrupts the details about the garden, and where could the writer move it?	“The principal needs the proposal by Friday.” Move it to a closing sentence about the next step or request for approval.
4	Name the repeated sentence beginning in paragraph 3, then name two vague terms from that paragraph that could be replaced with more precise words.	Repeated beginning: “We will need.” Vague terms: “nice” and “good for everybody.”

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Building the rain garden will require a clear plan and shared work. Student volunteers can dig the shallow basin, carry compost, and water young plants with hoses and watering cans. Before planting day, the team should borrow shovels, choose native species, and mark safe work areas. This useful outdoor project could reduce sidewalk runoff while giving students a place to observe insects, soil, and plant growth.

Accept revisions that use 4 or 5 sentences, remove or replace the vague language, and vary the repeated “We will need” pattern. Students may add different accurate, specific details about planning, tools, or jobs.