Voice in Focus

Spot who does the action.

10.LU.1.C "Recognize and use active and passive voice to convey a desired effect in speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. This voice often makes writing direct and clear.

Before sunrise, a baker stacked warm loaves.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. The person or thing doing the action may be named or left out.

During winter, the telescope was repaired.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE, then choose two item numbers and explain which voice each sentence uses and how you know.

1. The committee approved the proposal. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. A sudden storm damaged the bridge. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The mural was painted by local artists. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. Researchers tested the water samples. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The final score was announced by the referee. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The missing files were found by the technician. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. The orchestra performed the new piece. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The route was changed after the accident. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new ACTIVE sentence and one new PASSIVE sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one PASSIVE sentence from the sort in ACTIVE voice while keeping its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Voice in Focus

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee approved the proposal.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, committee, performs the action approved.
2	A sudden storm damaged the bridge.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, storm, performs the action damaged.
3	The mural was painted by local artists.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, mural, receives the action. The doer appears in a by phrase.
4	Researchers tested the water samples.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, researchers, performs the action tested.
5	The final score was announced by the referee.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, score, receives the action. The referee is the doer.
6	The missing files were found by the technician.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, files, receives the action. The technician is the doer.
7	The orchestra performed the new piece.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, orchestra, performs the action performed.
8	The route was changed after the accident.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, route, receives the action. The doer is not named.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACTIVE**: A pilot guided the aircraft through fog.
- **PASSIVE**: The exhibit was opened by the curator.

Challenge: Item 3: Local artists painted the mural.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.