Voice Focus

Sort sentences by the voice they use.

11.LU.1.C "Differentiate and apply 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. Use it to emphasize who or what acts.

The violinist performed a solo.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it to emphasize the receiver of the action or when the actor is less important.

A rare manuscript was discovered in the archive.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE based on its voice.

1. The committee approved the proposal. ACTIVE PASSIVE

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

3. New safety rules were announced yesterday. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. A storm damaged the coastal road. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The editor questioned the source. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The final decision was reached after debate. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. Volunteers collected donations at noon. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The schedule was changed by the director. 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 your new ACTIVE sentence in passive voice, then explain in one sentence how the change shifts the emphasis.

Voice Focus

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The committee approved the proposal.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, committee, performs the action.
2	The mural was painted by local artists.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, mural, receives the action.
3	New safety rules were announced yesterday.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, rules, receives the action; the actor is omitted.
4	A storm damaged the coastal road.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, storm, performs the action.
5	The editor questioned the source.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, editor, performs the action.
6	The final decision was reached after debate.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, decision, receives the action.
7	Volunteers collected donations at noon.	**ACTIVE**	The subject, volunteers, performs the action.
8	The schedule was changed by the director.	**PASSIVE**	The subject, schedule, receives the action.

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**: The robotics team tested the prototype.
- **PASSIVE**: The permit was signed by the mayor.

Challenge: The prototype was tested by the robotics team. The passive voice emphasizes the prototype rather than the team.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify whether the subject performs or receives the action. Accept varied Part 3 responses when the voice and sentence structure are correct.