Voice Choice

Sort sentences by the voice they use.

11.LU "The student will use the conventions of Standard English when speaking and writing, differentiating between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is more appropriate..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject performs the action. Use it when you want to emphasize the doer.

The botanist cataloged rare ferns.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it when you want to emphasize the action or receiver.

Rare ferns were cataloged by the botanist.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence, then for Part 2 choose two items and explain which words reveal the voice.

1. The final report was submitted before noon. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. The auditorium lights were dimmed for the presentation. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. Maya will lead the discussion. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. The council rejected the proposal. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. Researchers are testing a new water filter. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. The missing sculpture was found by a park ranger. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. A storm damaged several roofs. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The schedule has been revised. 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

For Part 3, write one new ACTIVE sentence and one new PASSIVE sentence.

ACTIVE _____

PASSIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your ACTIVE sentence as a PASSIVE sentence, then write one sentence explaining how the focus changed.

Voice Choice

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The final report was submitted before noon.	**PASSIVE**	The report receives the action, and the doer is not named.
2	The auditorium lights were dimmed for the presentation.	**PASSIVE**	The lights receive the action of dimming.
3	Maya will lead the discussion.	**ACTIVE**	Maya, the subject, performs the action.
4	The council rejected the proposal.	**ACTIVE**	The council, the subject, performs the action.
5	Researchers are testing a new water filter.	**ACTIVE**	Researchers, the subject, perform the action.
6	The missing sculpture was found by a park ranger.	**PASSIVE**	The sculpture receives the action, which is performed by the ranger.
7	A storm damaged several roofs.	**ACTIVE**	The storm, the subject, performs the action.
8	The schedule has been revised.	**PASSIVE**	The schedule receives the action, and 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**: The curator arranged the exhibit.
- **PASSIVE**: The exhibit was arranged by the curator.

Challenge: The exhibit was arranged by the curator. The revision focuses on the exhibit rather than the curator.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the subject as the doer in active voice or identify a form of be plus a past participle in passive voice.