Talk It Right

Match your words to the situation.

5.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. Grammar Expand, combine..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FORMAL LANGUAGE

Use formal language when you speak or write to adults you do not know well, in school messages, or in other serious situations. Choose polite, complete words.

Dear Librarian, I would appreciate help finding a book about volcanoes.

INFORMAL LANGUAGE

Use informal language when you talk with friends or family in relaxed situations. Informal language may include casual words or shortened phrases.

Wow, that robot is so cool!

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which words or style clues helped you sort them.

1. Thank you for explaining the assignment. FORMAL INFORMAL

2. I am writing to ask about the science fair schedule. FORMAL INFORMAL

3. That was totally awesome! FORMAL INFORMAL

4. May I speak with you after class? FORMAL INFORMAL

5. Oops, I left my lunch at home! FORMAL INFORMAL

6. Yo, can you save me a seat? FORMAL INFORMAL

7. Could you please send the permission slip by Friday? FORMAL INFORMAL

8. Please accept my apology for arriving late. FORMAL INFORMAL

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 FORMAL example and one new INFORMAL example.

FORMAL _____

INFORMAL _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your informal example as a formal message to an adult, while keeping the same main idea.

Talk It Right

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Thank you for explaining the assignment.	**FORMAL**	Polite, complete wording fits a school or adult conversation.
2	I am writing to ask about the science fair schedule.	**FORMAL**	This is a complete, respectful request.
3	That was totally awesome!	**INFORMAL**	The casual phrase "totally awesome" fits relaxed talk with friends.
4	May I speak with you after class?	**FORMAL**	"May I" is a polite way to make a request.
5	Oops, I left my lunch at home!	**INFORMAL**	"Oops" is a casual interjection used in relaxed speech.
6	Yo, can you save me a seat?	**INFORMAL**	"Yo" is a casual greeting used with friends.
7	Could you please send the permission slip by Friday?	**FORMAL**	The sentence uses polite wording for a request.
8	Please accept my apology for arriving late.	**FORMAL**	This is a respectful, serious apology.

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)

- **FORMAL**: Dear Coach Rivera, I would like to ask about the practice schedule.
- **INFORMAL**: Hey, can we practice later?

Challenge: Dear Coach Rivera, may we practice later?

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify clues such as polite wording, complete phrasing, casual greetings, slang, or interjections. Accept reasonable answers when the student accurately connects a language choice to a formal or informal situation.