

Creek Care Revisions

Study how clear details, varied sentences, and transitions strengthen a model paragraph set.

7.W.3.A "Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transition among paragraphs."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the transition words or phrases that connect ideas across time or paragraphs. Circle three precise action verbs, then put a star beside one short sentence and one long sentence to notice sentence variety.

Restoring Maple Creek

- ① On Saturday morning, students at Riverbend Middle School gathered beside Maple Creek, a stream that runs behind the baseball field. Years of rain had washed soil from the bank, leaving exposed roots and muddy water after storms. The group studied a map, measured the damaged area, and listened as a park ranger explained the plan. Native plants would hold the soil in place. Their roots would also slow runoff before it reached the creek during heavy rains.
- ② First, volunteers removed broken bottles and tangled fishing line from the streambank. Then they spread a thick layer of compost and planted switchgrass, sedges, and cardinal flower along the slope. These species are native to many parts of the eastern United States and have roots that help grip soil. By noon, the bare bank looked different. Small green shoots formed rows above the water, while mulch protected the ground from sun and pounding rain. The work was careful, not quick, for the whole team.
- ③ However, planting was only the beginning. For the next two years, science classes will photograph the bank, test water cloudiness after storms, and pull invasive weeds before they spread. The students will compare each season's pictures with their first map. If the plants survive and the water carries less soil, the project will show a clear result. In addition, the restored bank may provide shelter for insects, frogs, and birds. A healthier creek can begin with many small actions by people nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Revise this sentence from paragraph 2: "By noon, the bare bank looked different." Make the word "different" more precise by using two details from the paragraph.

- 2** Which two verbs in paragraph 2 make the volunteers' work clear? Tell what each verb helps you picture.

- 3** Copy one short sentence and one longer sentence from the passage. How does the difference in length help the writing?

- 4** What transition begins paragraph 3? Explain how it clearly connects paragraph 3 to paragraph 2.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write and revise a 4-5 sentence second paragraph about improving a place at school. Use a transition that connects to a first paragraph about a problem, include at least two precise action verbs, and vary your sentence lengths.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the transition words or phrases that connect ideas across time or paragraphs. Circle three precise action verbs, then put a star beside one short sentence and one long sentence to notice sentence variety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Revise this sentence from paragraph 2: "By noon, the bare bank looked different." Make the word "different" more precise by using two details from the paragraph.	By noon, small green shoots formed rows above the water, and mulch covered the ground.
2	Which two verbs in paragraph 2 make the volunteers' work clear? Tell what each verb helps you picture.	Removed and planted. Removed pictures taking trash away, and planted pictures placing plants in the soil.
3	Copy one short sentence and one longer sentence from the passage. How does the difference in length help the writing?	Short sentence: "However, planting was only the beginning." Longer sentence: "For the next two years, science classes will photograph the bank, test water cloudiness after storms, and pull invasive weeds before they spread." The short sentence creates a pause and emphasis after the longer details.
4	What transition begins paragraph 3? Explain how it clearly connects paragraph 3 to paragraph 2.	However. It shows that, although volunteers finished planting, more work is still needed to restore the creek bank.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the courtyard plan was approved, volunteers measured the empty space beside the library. They hauled away cracked pots and arranged raised beds in sunny rows. By Friday, seedlings filled the new planters. As a result, the bare corner became a garden where classes can observe insects and grow herbs.

Accept revisions that use accurate details from the passage and make meaning clearer. For the open task, accept varied topics if the paragraph has 4-5 sentences, a clear connecting transition, precise verbs, and noticeably varied sentence lengths.