

Detail Detectives

Sort details that strengthen a presentation's main idea.

8.C.2.A.ii "Deliver collaborative and individual formal and informal interactive presentations This includes: Incorporating pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples to support the main ideas."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERTINENT DETAIL

A pertinent detail directly explains, proves, or illustrates the main idea. It gives the audience useful information about the topic.

For a presentation about adding a crosswalk, "Cars move quickly past the playground at dismissal" is a pertinent detail.

UNRELATED DETAIL

An unrelated detail does not help explain, prove, or illustrate the main idea. It may be interesting, but it does not support the presentation.

For that crosswalk presentation, "The principal collects postcards" is an unrelated detail.

1 SORT 8 items

The main idea is "Our school should install water-bottle refill stations to reduce plastic waste," so circle PERTINENT or UNRELATED for each detail, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which words show your choices.

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Students can fill reusable bottles instead of buying new plastic bottles. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 2. | Many students buy drinks at lunch, so a station near the cafeteria would give them an alternative to plastic bottles. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 3. | The football team won last Friday's game. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 4. | Using a reusable bottle means fewer single-use bottles are thrown away. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 5. | The drama club is rehearsing a comedy this month. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 6. | The school was built in 1974. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 7. | A station with two spouts could serve more students during lunch. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |
| 8. | Clear signs could show students how refilling bottles cuts plastic waste. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block;">PERTINENT</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 10px;">UNRELATED</div> |

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 pertinent detail and one new unrelated detail for the refill-station main idea.

PERTINENT

UNRELATED

CHALLENGE

Write a main idea for a school presentation, add two pertinent details, and explain which detail is stronger support and why.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Students can fill reusable bottles instead of buying new plastic bottles.	PERTINENT	It shows how refill stations can reduce use of single-use plastic bottles.
2	Many students buy drinks at lunch, so a station near the cafeteria would give them an alternative to plastic bottles.	PERTINENT	It connects the station to a time and place where students may choose plastic bottles.
3	The football team won last Friday's game.	UNRELATED	The game result does not relate to refill stations or plastic waste.
4	Using a reusable bottle means fewer single-use bottles are thrown away.	PERTINENT	It directly explains how reusable bottles can reduce waste.
5	The drama club is rehearsing a comedy this month.	UNRELATED	Drama club rehearsals do not support the main idea.
6	The school was built in 1974.	UNRELATED	The building's age does not support installing refill stations to reduce plastic waste.
7	A station with two spouts could serve more students during lunch.	PERTINENT	It gives a useful detail about making the station available to students.
8	Clear signs could show students how refilling bottles cuts plastic waste.	PERTINENT	It explains how students could understand the station's purpose.

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)

- **PERTINENT:** Refill stations would give athletes a place to fill bottles after practice.
- **UNRELATED:** The art club meets on Thursdays.

Challenge: Our school should add a quiet study room near the gym. A student survey found that 68 students want a silent place to study after school. The current library has only 12 open seats after school. The survey detail is stronger because it directly shows that students want the study room.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are PERTINENT. Items 3, 5, and 6 are UNRELATED. For Part 2, students should name a specific connection, or lack of connection, between each chosen detail and the main idea.