Voice Choice

Sort sentences by who performs the action.

9.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.

Botanists cataloged mosses.

PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Use it when the receiver or result matters more than the doer.

Mosses had been cataloged.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE.

1. Jordan submitted the proposal before noon. ACTIVE PASSIVE

2. Volunteers collected canned food for the pantry. ACTIVE PASSIVE

3. The stage was decorated for opening night. ACTIVE PASSIVE

4. Lightning shattered the old oak tree. ACTIVE PASSIVE

5. The final decision was announced during assembly. ACTIVE PASSIVE

6. A new trail will be opened next spring. ACTIVE PASSIVE

7. Our editor revised the article carefully. ACTIVE PASSIVE

8. The committee approved the updated schedule. 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 item 6 in active voice. Then write one sentence explaining how the revision changes the focus.

Voice Choice

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Jordan submitted the proposal before noon.	**ACTIVE**	Jordan, the subject, performs the action of submitting.
2	Volunteers collected canned food for the pantry.	**ACTIVE**	Volunteers, the subject, perform the action of collecting.
3	The stage was decorated for opening night.	**PASSIVE**	The stage receives the action of decorating.
4	Lightning shattered the old oak tree.	**ACTIVE**	Lightning, the subject, performs the action of shattering.
5	The final decision was announced during assembly.	**PASSIVE**	The final decision receives the action of announcing.
6	A new trail will be opened next spring.	**PASSIVE**	The new trail receives the action of opening.
7	Our editor revised the article carefully.	**ACTIVE**	The editor, the subject, performs the action of revising.
8	The committee approved the updated schedule.	**ACTIVE**	The committee, the subject, performs the action of approving.

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**: Mina designed a solar oven for the fair.
- **PASSIVE**: The mural was painted by neighborhood artists.

Challenge: Park rangers will open a new trail next spring. The active revision focuses on the people who will do the work.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept equivalent explanations that correctly identify the subject as the doer in active voice or the receiver in passive voice. For the challenge, accept any active revision that names a logical actor and keeps the future meaning.