Edit With Purpose

Identify revisions that improve a draft about a global seed vault.

9.W.3.C "Edit writing for appropriate conventions, style, and language (See Language Usage for grade level expectations)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every sentence that needs editing. Write B beside a sentence-boundary problem, A beside a subject-verb agreement problem, or P beside wording that should be more precise and formal, so you can plan revisions.

A Seed Vault Draft

(1) High on a mountain in Norway's Svalbard archipelago, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault stores backup copies of crop seeds from around the world. The vault opened in 2008, it was built to protect seed collections from disasters, war, and equipment failures. Its location in permafrost helps keep the storage rooms cold, even if power is interrupted. Seed banks send duplicate samples to the vault, which holds a bunch of seeds from crops such as rice, wheat, and beans. The vault does not own the samples, each depositing seed bank keeps control of its collection.

(2) Inside the vault, workers place seed packets in sealed boxes and arrange the boxes on metal shelves. Each box of samples are labeled with information about the crop, the place where it was grown, and the seed bank that sent it. The seeds are kept at about minus 18 degrees Celsius, a temperature that slows their aging. Because the vault is a backup facility, researchers usually request seeds from their original seed banks instead. This system lets many countries protect important varieties, and it gives farmers a better shot when a disease or drought damages local crops.

(3) In 2015, the vault supplied seeds for the first time after the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas requested samples to rebuild a collection disrupted by the conflict in Syria. The request showed why backup collections matter, they can help scientists restart research after a crisis. This is a big deal for food security because crops need genetic diversity to resist pests, diseases, and changing weather. The vault cannot solve every agricultural problem, but it provides a carefully protected source of seeds for future planting and research. That is pretty amazing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The second sentence in paragraph 1 has a comma splice. Rewrite it as one correctly punctuated sentence.

2. Find the subject-verb agreement error in paragraph 2. Write the corrected sentence.

3. Rewrite the final sentence of paragraph 2. Replace the casual phrase “a better shot” with formal, precise language.

4. Rewrite the final sentence of paragraph 3 in a formal, specific style.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence announcement for your school about a plan to conserve water. Use complete sentences, make subjects and verbs agree, and choose precise, formal words instead of casual or vague phrases.

ANSWER KEY

Edit With Purpose

GRADE 9 · 9.W.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every sentence that needs editing. Write B beside a sentence-boundary problem, A beside a subject-verb agreement problem, or P beside wording that should be more precise and formal, so you can plan revisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The second sentence in paragraph 1 has a comma splice. Rewrite it as one correctly punctuated sentence.	**The vault opened in 2008, and it was built to protect seed collections from disasters, war, and equipment failures.**
2	Find the subject-verb agreement error in paragraph 2. Write the corrected sentence.	**Each box of samples is labeled with information about the crop, the place where it was grown, and the seed bank that sent it.**
3	Rewrite the final sentence of paragraph 2. Replace the casual phrase "a better shot" with formal, precise language.	**This system lets many countries protect important varieties, and it gives farmers a greater chance of recovering when a disease or drought damages local crops.**
4	Rewrite the final sentence of paragraph 3 in a formal, specific style.	**The vault provides an important protected source of crop seeds for future planting and research.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Beginning Monday, the school will place signs near sinks that explain how to reduce water use. Each classroom will receive a checklist for reporting leaking faucets. These steps will help the school conserve water and protect a limited resource.

Accept revisions that correctly fix sentence boundaries, change "are" to "is," and replace casual or vague wording with formal, specific language. For Part 3, require exactly three complete sentences with appropriate agreement and a clear, formal description of a water-conservation plan.