



Precise and Concise Language

FREE SAMPLE

A complete reading selection, one focused task, and matching teacher guidance.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Complete source reading selection
- Focused task with response space
- Teacher guidance and source notes
- Published Saint Pierre license

2017 NC ELA SCOS | In use for 2026-27

Supplemental practice for the named skill. Print-ready PDF.

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FICTIONAL SCENARIO | READING PRACTICE

Making Every Word Count

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Read and annotate the complete selection. Then complete the included focused task.

1. Queues at a narrow entrance disrupted activities. Officials proposed converting the club room into a larger foyer and sought a grant. Some residents supported the conversion; others feared losing meeting space. The application's wordy draft obscured the actual proposal and its missing cost estimate. Before choosing a side, Sana wrote a notebook question: "What would people need to know to make a responsible decision?"
2. Residents gathered in the club room, exchanged information and organized help for neighbors. One speaker called the center outdated; another called it the heart of Woodbury. The grant application was a document about this building, not a physical place. Sana wanted a decision that recognized both community history and present needs.
3. Sana and a friend counted arrivals, noted where queues blocked the entrance and recorded use of the club room. They compared these observations with the draft's vague claims. The notes showed what happened during one visit, not the success of a future renovation. Sana crossed out "obviously" in the notes because the available observations did not justify certainty.
4. A volunteer supplied dated center activity logs and earlier grant reports. Entries documented neighbors arranging temporary meeting space during repairs. Sana separated these records from the new, repetitive application draft, which still needed support for its claims. Sana asked where the materials came from and copied a dated detail. The volunteer distinguished personal recollections from documentation; an appealing account still needed support.
5. At a planning session, grant reviewers explained that a clear proposal needed to explain current access problems, community uses and unresolved costs. Sana listened, then restated the concern to check understanding. One speaker replied, "That is exactly the problem we keep describing." They recognized a shared problem without agreeing on a solution.

Making Every Word Count | continued

6. Back home, Sana sorted the notes into direct observations, reported statements and questions still needing investigation. The dated record supplied historical context, not a prediction of future costs or outcomes. Sana changed "This plan will work" to "This approach is worth testing." The new claim was more defensible because it matched the limited evidence.

7. Sana's draft began with the present difficulty, then gave observations and dated evidence. It proposed a supervised trial of staggered sessions and an entrance arrangement that kept the club room available. The plan called for checking queues and room use at comparable times, with a clear cost estimate and public review before a permanent renovation. The trial was a proposal for gathering information, not a claim that a permanent solution had already succeeded.

8. One classmate thought the draft gave history too much space; another feared that numbers alone would erase residents' experiences. Sana placed an account from grant reviewers beside a direct observation. The revision explained that the account could clarify concerns and the observation could describe one period, but neither established future effectiveness or complete costs.

9. At the final meeting, participants asked what the trial would cost and how well it would improve access. Sana cited useful observations and openly identified missing estimates and other research needs. A supporter of permanently converting the club room into a foyer still agreed that the public should see trial results. An official suggested a progress report and a volunteer offered to gather more observations.

10. The group voted to collect more evidence before making an irreversible change. No permanent plan was approved. Passing the neighborhood community center in Woodbury afterward, Sana saw that the practical problem and disagreement remained. Yet the group had agreed to test claims, listen to one another and return to the decision with better information.

EDITING EXCERPT: The first draft stated, "Everyone universally agreed together that the plan was very, very good." A later revision stated, "Several residents supported the trial because it would produce measurable evidence." The original message also used "affect" where the writer meant "effect" and omitted the comma after an introductory phrase. Revising those choices makes the statement more accurate, concise, and conventionally correct. The phrase "a bridge between opinions" functions as a metaphor, not a literal object.

L.7.3 | Focused lesson

Revise for precision while keeping the intended meaning.

Completed model

"Several residents supported the trial" is more precise than "Everyone universally agreed together."
Concision should remove redundancy without erasing necessary qualifications.

Name: _____ Date: _____

[illegible]

L.7.3 | Sample teacher guidance

Task 1

Several residents supported the trial. Replaces unsupported everyone, removes repeated agreement language and vague intensifiers, and names the actual subject.

The full packet includes retained comprehension questions and keys, all three focused tasks, and further teacher guidance.

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