

USE VERB VOICE FOR EFFECT

The **voice** of a verb communicates whether the subject of a clause performs or receives the action of the verb. When choosing your verb voice, think about what you want to emphasize.

A sentence written in **active voice** emphasizes the actor. Active voice is often clearer and more concise than passive voice.

Ernesto painted the mural.

A sentence written in **passive voice** emphasizes the action. Passive voice can be helpful when the actor isn't known or isn't as important as the action itself.

The mural was painted in 2015.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence to emphasize the action or actor, based on what is specified below. Circle or highlight the verb or verb phrase that you change in each scenario.

1. The director **will post** the cast list for *The Secret Garden* near the auditorium on Thursday afternoon.

Action: The cast list for *The Secret Garden* will be posted near the auditorium on Thursday afternoon.

2. Several books were recommended by Mrs. Esquivel for Crown Library's summer reading contest.

Actor: _____

3. Delegates crafted a new U.S. Constitution during the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Action: _____

4. The banquet's incredible decor and confetti-filled balloons were donated by a local store in town, Party Perfection.

Actor: _____

5. Grant Wood's iconic "American Gothic" painting depicts a stern-looking farmer and his wife in front of a house in southern Iowa.

Action: _____

6. The informational meeting was attended by dozens of volunteers interested in hosting a fundraiser for the animal shelter.

Actor: _____

7. In 1923, Garrett Morgan patented the three-light traffic light, which added a "yield" component to the previously used two-light system.

Action: _____

8. The "1812 Overture" was written by the Russian composer Tchaikovsky to commemorate Russia's defeat of Napoleon's armies in 1812.

Actor: _____