

Reasoned Reflection Answer Key

Sample Response Excerpt

I learned a lot during my first volunteer project **because** it showed me how much teamwork matters. We arrived late **because of** heavy traffic on the way to the event. Everyone stayed calm **because** we wanted to make the most of our time. The children we helped smiled **because of** the fun games we organized. I felt proud **because** I had stepped out of my comfort zone. The project ended successfully **because of** everyone's effort and patience.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Strengthening sentence variety and logical reasoning by alternating between *because* (linking to a clause) and *because of* (linking to a noun or noun phrase).
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Encourage struggling writers to plan their sentences first, labeling each one as "because" or "because of" before writing.
 - Provide visual sentence frames, such as "I felt happy because..." and "I felt happy because of..."
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Have students read their reflections aloud and challenge peers to identify whether each use was *because* or *because of*.
 - Create a classroom "Reason Wall" displaying excerpts that use both connectors correctly.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Ask advanced students to revise their reflections to improve sentence rhythm and word choice while keeping all cause connectors accurate.
 - Integrate the reflection into a larger writing unit by connecting it to persuasive or narrative writing focused on cause and effect.