

From Blog To Essay Answer Key

Formal Essay Rewrite (Example): Yesterday, my friends and I explored an old garden **behind** the library that resembled a picturesque scene from a storybook. We spent time there conversing and photographing the wildflowers **behind** the benches. Later, we observed a gardener working **behind** the greenhouse, who explained that the area was part of a local community restoration project. I was surprised to learn that such a peaceful, well-maintained space existed **behind** our school grounds.

Key Features of Corrected Version:

- Informal **in back of** changed to formal **behind**.
- Casual phrases ("hung out," "cool hidden spot") replaced with formal vocabulary ("spent time," "peaceful space").
- Tone shifted from personal and chatty to polished and academic.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Improving tone and precision through prepositional correction and vocabulary choice; recognizing how **behind** elevates writing formality compared to **in back of**.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Provide struggling learners with a word bank of formal replacements (e.g., "cool" → "impressive," "talking" → "conversing").
 - Challenge advanced students to expand the paragraph with a formal concluding sentence reflecting on the value of public green spaces.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Have students read both versions aloud to hear how tone changes through diction and preposition use.
 - Conduct a "Tone Detective" activity where students highlight informal words in one color and formal replacements in another.
- **Extension Activity:**
 - Ask students to create their own short blog entry using **in back of** and then rewrite it as a formal version using **behind**, comparing both for audience appropriateness.