

Formality Finder Answer Key

All sentences that use 'despite' should be marked as F (formal) and those that use 'in spite of' should be marked as C (casual).

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students learn that **despite** generally fits formal or academic writing, while **in spite of** is more conversational or narrative in tone.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling learners, explain that both phrases mean "even though," but the single-word version (**despite**) sounds smoother in essays or reports.
 - Provide sentence stems like "_____ the noise, I stayed focused" to help reinforce structure.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Conduct a "Tone Hunt" where students find examples of each phrase in news articles, stories, or textbooks.
 - Let students rewrite casual sentences into formal ones using **despite**, and vice versa.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Challenge advanced learners to write a short paragraph that shifts tone mid-way, using both phrases appropriately.
 - Have groups discuss why authors might choose one phrase over the other to match audience or purpose.