

Rising Tension Answer Key

Teachers should look for:

- Identification of the central conflict: the narrator has not completed their part of the group project because of a laptop issue.
- Explanation of why it matters: the narrator wants the group to succeed and feels responsible for the missing work.
- Recognition of feelings such as worry, pressure, or uncertainty.
- Understanding of the stakes: the group presentation could go poorly or the narrator might let the group down.
- Evidence of tension: the last-minute time crunch, pressure to admit the problem, and the upcoming presentation deadline.

Teacher's Guide

- Highlight for students that **conflict** in personal narratives often comes from everyday pressure, choice, or challenge.
- Model underlining phrases that signal tension, such as time limits, difficult decisions, or unexpected problems.
- Differentiate with sentence frames for students who need structure, such as: The central conflict is... This matters because...
- Increase engagement by having students rewrite the paragraph from another group member's perspective to explore how conflict affects others.
- Extend by asking students to draft a new personal narrative paragraph that includes a clear conflict and high stakes.