

Focus Trait: Organization

Using Supporting Details

**Vaqueros: America's
 First Cowboys**
 Writing: Opinion Writing

Effective writers use precise details to support their statements. They also present those details in ways that are easy for readers to follow.

Without Details or Corrections

The Aztecs were conquered by Cortez. Frank was studying the Aztec people. He read about their culture. They lived in Mexico and had power.

With Details and Corrections

Because the subject interested him, Frank began studying the Aztec people of Mexico, who rose to great power. First, he read about their architecture and astronomy. Then he researched their conquest by Cortez of Spain in the sixteenth century.

A. Answer the following questions based on the passages above.

1. What supporting details does passage 2 use that passage 1 does not?
2. What important change has been made to the beginning of the passage?

B. Rewrite the following sentences to add details.

Pair/Share Work with a partner to brainstorm details.

3. Andrea had played the trumpet for four years. However, she didn't like it. By contrast, Olivia had played the tuba for two years and loved it.
4. The weather has been strange. It has been cold but has not damaged the crops.