Please read the following scenario:

Assume you are a paraprofessional in a fifth grade classroom. Matthew is a student in the class who often gets distracted during math lessons and assignments. He stares out the window without paying attention, and he frequently puts his head down on his desk. He also fiddles with his pencil and stares at the artwork and posters on the wall. When the teacher verbally reminds Matthew to pay attention to the math lesson, he complies for a short time and then seems to become distracted again.

The teacher wants to increase Matthew’s interest and attention in math, and she asks you to help her make some modifications to increase his academic engaged time. Based on what you have learned in this lesson, what lesson modifications could you make to help Matthew stay engaged in math lessons and assignments? Consider the following options, and then decide what you would choose to do in this situation:

1. Break down Matthew’s math assignments into smaller ones. Ask him to show you each mini-assignment when he completes it, and praise him for effort and task completion.
2. Break lesson presentations into shorter segments, and plan short review sessions with the students after each segment.
3. Alternate math assignments with other activities that Matthew is more interested in.
4. Make another lesson modification, or multiple modifications, to increase Matthew’s academic engaged time.

Describe the behavior:

1. What does the behavior of concern look like when it happens?

2. What should the behavior look like (i.e., what behavior should you teach)?

Describe the conditions around the behavior:
3. When does the behavior take place?

4. What specifically occurs before the behavior takes place?

5. How do people respond to the behavior after it takes place?

Consider the options presented for the above scenario:

6. Which of the options (above) would you choose to use to address the challenging behavior? What is your reasoning for choosing this option over the other options?

7. Would you apply this strategy before, during, or after the challenging behavior occurs? What is your reasoning for this?

8. Imagine that you need to tell another paraprofessional how s/he should respond to the challenging behavior described in the scenario. Describe in detail, step by step, how this paraprofessional should carry out the strategy that you chose to use.