One Vote, Three Stories

How coverage can shape a reader's view

SS24.CWI.1a "Compare and contrast how several sources cover the same events and explain how their varied perspectives influence audience perceptions about the events themselves."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts that appear in all three accounts. Circle one detail each source emphasizes that could shape how readers view the vote.

The Saturday Library Closure

1. In the fictional town of Larkford, the council voted 5 to 2 on April 9 to close Riverside Library on Saturdays for twelve weeks while workers repaired its leaking roof. Saturday book pickup would move to a community center two miles away. The town's bulletin, posted that evening, titled its notice "Repairs Protect Books and Visitors." It led with the leak and the risk of water damage, then listed weekday hours and the new pickup site. It quoted a council member saying the plan would keep services running during construction. The notice did not discuss how people would get to the community center.

2. The Larkford Ledger, an independent local news site, covered the same Saturday closure and move to the community center under the headline "Saturday Closure Sends Readers Across Town." Its reporter included the roof leak and the twelve-week schedule, but opened with a resident who takes the bus and worried about the longer trip. The story also quoted a library worker who said moving book pickup would protect borrowed books from the leak. Unlike the town bulletin, the Ledger included both a reason for the closure and a possible burden on patrons. Readers might see the decision as a trade-off rather than a simple repair plan.

3. At Riverside High, the student-run Current published "Where Will We Study on Saturdays?" It reported the Saturday closure and the same 5-to-2 vote, and noted that books could still be picked up at the community center. Its lead focused on students who used the library's quiet tables on weekends, a service the pickup site would not replace. A student editor interviewed two classmates who expected to study at home instead. The Current did not quote the council member about water damage. A reader of this account might judge the closure mainly by its effect on study space, even though all three sources described the same decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two facts about the council's decision appear in all three accounts?

2. How do the town bulletin and the Ledger differ in their treatment of travel to the pickup site?

3. What effect does the Current emphasize that the other two accounts do not?

4. How might readers of the town bulletin and the Current come away with different views of the same closure? Use a detail from each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school cancels an outdoor concert because of a storm and reschedules it indoors next week. Write one headline for a school office notice and one for a student-run site, then explain in two or three sentences how each headline might shape readers' views without changing the facts.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.1a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts that appear in all three accounts. Circle one detail each source emphasizes that could shape how readers view the vote. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two facts about the council's decision appear in all three accounts?	**All three report the Saturday library closure and the move of book pickup to the community center.**
2	How do the town bulletin and the Ledger differ in their treatment of travel to the pickup site?	**The bulletin names the new site but does not discuss travel. The Ledger opens with a bus rider's concern about the longer trip.**
3	What effect does the Current emphasize that the other two accounts do not?	**The Current emphasizes the loss of quiet weekend study space for students, which book pickup cannot replace.**
4	How might readers of the town bulletin and the Current come away with different views of the same closure? Use a detail from each.	**Bulletin readers might see the closure as a way to prevent water damage while continuing services. Current readers might see it as a loss of study space because its lead focuses on students who use the library's quiet tables.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

School office: "Storm Prompts Safer Indoor Concert Next Week"
Student-run site: "Concert Fans Must Wait Another Week"
The school office headline stresses safety and the new plan, so readers may see the decision as responsible. The student-run headline stresses the wait, so readers may focus on their disappointment. Both describe the same cancellation and rescheduling.

Accept other supported comparisons of what the sources emphasize or leave out. For the open task, both headlines must fit the stated event, and the explanation must connect each perspective to a possible reader response.