

One Report, Two Paths

Compare how opposing writers shape the same evidence.

ELA.10.R.2.4 “Compare the development of two opposing arguments on the same topic, evaluating the effectiveness and validity of the claims and analyzing the ways in which the authors use the same information to achieve different ends.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the report facts in the first paragraph. Then circle each time Bell or Ortiz uses one of those facts, and write B or O beside it to show which author uses it.

The Market Street Pilot

- ① In Riverton, the city council is considering whether to replace one downtown car lane with a protected bike lane on Market Street. A six-month pilot placed flexible posts between bicycles and traffic. The city transportation report found that weekday bicycle trips on the street rose from about 420 to 610. During the same period, average car travel time along the eight-block corridor increased by 38 seconds at afternoon rush hour. The report also recorded 14 crashes involving cars or bicycles before the pilot and 9 during it. Because the pilot lasted only six months, the report does not track winter travel or long-term business sales.
- ② Council member Dana Bell supports making the lane permanent. Bell begins with the increase in bicycle trips, arguing that a protected route gives people a practical reason to ride downtown. Bell then points to the drop from 14 to 9 crashes and says the city should protect people before a more serious collision occurs. She acknowledges the 38-second delay for drivers but calls it small compared with the safety benefit. Bell proposes adjusting traffic-light timing to reduce the delay. In her view, the pilot's results justify permanent construction, followed by another report after one full year.
- ③ Business owner Leo Ortiz opposes a permanent lane, although he accepts the report's numbers. He focuses on the rise from 420 to 610 bicycle trips, noting that the report counts trips, not individual riders. Some people, he argues, may have made several trips or shifted from nearby streets. Ortiz also uses the 38-second delay, saying that added time can matter to delivery drivers and customers choosing where to shop. He treats the crash decrease cautiously because nine crashes is a small number and the pilot omitted winter months. Rather than build the lane now, Ortiz asks the council to extend the pilot through winter and collect sales and delivery data.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does Bell develop her argument for a permanent bike lane, and how does Ortiz develop his argument against building it now?

2 Both authors use the 38-second increase in car travel time. How does each author use that same information for a different purpose?

3 Evaluate Ortiz's claim that the city should wait before making the lane permanent. Which two report details make his caution reasonable, and what added evidence would strengthen his claim?

4 For an audience mainly concerned about street safety, which argument is likely more effective? Explain how the author selects and interprets evidence to reach that audience.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word memo to the Riverton council recommending either a permanent bike lane or an extended pilot. Use at least two numerical report facts, explain how your use of one fact differs from the opposing view, and address one limit of the report.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the report facts in the first paragraph. Then circle each time Bell or Ortiz uses one of those facts, and write B or O beside it to show which author uses it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Bell develop her argument for a permanent bike lane, and how does Ortiz develop his argument against building it now?	Bell links increased bike trips and fewer crashes to safety and access, minimizes the driver delay, and suggests adjusting traffic lights. Ortiz questions what the trip and crash numbers can prove, emphasizes possible business and delivery effects, and asks for more data.
2	Both authors use the 38-second increase in car travel time. How does each author use that same information for a different purpose?	Bell presents the delay as small compared with the safety benefit and proposes changing traffic-light timing. Ortiz presents the delay as a possible problem for delivery drivers and shoppers.
3	Evaluate Ortiz's claim that the city should wait before making the lane permanent. Which two report details make his caution reasonable, and what added evidence would strengthen his claim?	His caution is supported by the six-month length of the pilot, the lack of winter and long-term sales data, and the small number of crashes. Winter results plus sales and delivery data would strengthen his claim.
4	For an audience mainly concerned about street safety, which argument is likely more effective? Explain how the author selects and interprets evidence to reach that audience.	Bell is likely more effective because she emphasizes the drop from 14 to 9 crashes, connects it to preventing serious collisions, and treats the 38-second delay as less important than safety. A different choice is acceptable if it is supported with evidence from the passage.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To the Riverton Council: Extend the pilot through winter before making the bike lane permanent. Bell uses the crash total, which fell from 14 to 9, to argue that immediate construction will improve safety. I view that same change as promising but incomplete because nine crashes is a small number for a final decision. Bell also treats the 38-second rush-hour delay as minor. I would study whether that delay affects deliveries and shopping before deciding that it is acceptable. Bicycle trips increased from about 420 to 610, so the city should keep the protected route while gathering winter, sales, and delivery information. After a full year, the council can compare stronger evidence.

Accept answers that accurately distinguish the authors' claims, evidence choices, and interpretations. For evaluative responses, accept either position when the student uses relevant passage evidence and addresses limits in the report.