

Evidence on Foot

Analyze evidence, source limits, and historical arguments.

SS.8.A.1.1 "Provide supporting details for an answer from text, interview for oral history, check validity of information from research or text, and identify strong vs. weak arguments."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that support the claim in paragraph 1, circle two limits of Mr. Lewis's interview in paragraph 2, and write A or B beside the stronger argument in paragraph 3.

Investigating a Bus Boycott

- ① On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, after she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Local leaders called for a one-day bus boycott on December 5. That morning, many Black residents walked, shared rides, or used Black-owned taxis instead of riding city buses. The Montgomery Improvement Association soon organized the longer boycott. These details support the claim that ordinary residents, not only famous leaders, made the protest work.
- ② In a 2024 oral-history interview, Mr. Lewis said that, as a nine-year-old in Montgomery, he watched neighbors leave home before sunrise to walk to work during the boycott. His memory offers a firsthand view of the sacrifice involved. However, his interview happened almost seventy years after the events, and he describes only one neighborhood. A careful researcher can check his account against 1955 newspaper reports, meeting records, and bus company records before using it as evidence about the whole city.
- ③ Consider two arguments about the boycott. Argument A states, "The boycott required broad community action because residents found ways to travel without the buses, and the association organized their efforts." Argument B states, "The boycott succeeded only because Rosa Parks was brave." Her courage mattered, but the word only leaves out organizers, walkers, drivers, and other residents. To judge either argument, look for a clear claim, relevant evidence, and reasoning that does not ignore important facts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two details from paragraph 1 support the claim that ordinary residents made the boycott work?

2 Why is Mr. Lewis's interview useful but limited as evidence about the boycott?

3 Name the three kinds of records a researcher could use to check Mr. Lewis's account.

4 Which argument is stronger, A or B? Give two reasons from the passage for your choice.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A museum caption says, "Every Montgomery resident walked to work during the boycott." Write four sentences judging this claim. Use two details from the passage and name one source you would check.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that support the claim in paragraph 1, circle two limits of Mr. Lewis's interview in paragraph 2, and write A or B beside the stronger argument in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details from paragraph 1 support the claim that ordinary residents made the boycott work?	Residents walked, shared rides, or used Black-owned taxis, and the Montgomery Improvement Association organized the longer boycott.
2	Why is Mr. Lewis's interview useful but limited as evidence about the boycott?	It is useful because he gives a firsthand memory of neighbors' sacrifices. It is limited because the interview occurred almost seventy years later and describes only one neighborhood.
3	Name the three kinds of records a researcher could use to check Mr. Lewis's account.	1955 newspaper reports, meeting records, and bus company records.
4	Which argument is stronger, A or B? Give two reasons from the passage for your choice.	Argument A is stronger. It uses relevant details about residents finding transportation and the association organizing efforts. Argument B ignores the contributions of organizers, walkers, drivers, and other residents.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The caption is not supported by the evidence. The passage says many residents walked, shared rides, or used Black-owned taxis, so not everyone walked. Mr. Lewis also describes only one neighborhood. I would check 1955 bus company records to learn about travel across the city.

Accept responses that reject the word every using evidence that residents used different travel methods. Students may name any one of the three record types from paragraph 2 as a source to check.