Two Views, One Boycott

Compare how two accounts frame the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

6.T.T.2.b "Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another on the same historical event or topic. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details from the newspaper report and circle two details from Jo Ann Robinson's memoir. Number one pair of details that shows a difference in what each author chose to include.

Accounts of a Boycott

1. On December 6, 1955, an unnamed reporter in the Montgomery Advertiser described the previous day's bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The report told readers that many Black residents had stayed off city buses and had walked, carpooled, or taken taxis instead. It included observations about nearly empty buses and statements from bus company officials. The reporter also described traffic and workday travel in the city. The article appeared while the protest was beginning, so it recorded sights, comments, and conditions that could be observed at the time.

2. In her 1987 memoir, The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It, Jo Ann Robinson recalled events after Rosa Parks's arrest. Robinson was president of the Women's Political Council, a group that had challenged unfair bus treatment. She and other workers used mimeograph machines at Alabama State College to produce thousands of leaflets calling for a one-day boycott. Robinson described late-night work and the risk of being discovered. She also remembered people delivering the leaflets to Black schools, businesses, and neighborhoods before Monday morning.

3. On December 5, most Black residents avoided Montgomery buses. That evening, thousands gathered at Holt Street Baptist Church, where speakers urged the boycott to continue. The protest lasted 381 days. In 1956, the United States Supreme Court let a lower court ruling against bus segregation stand, and Montgomery buses were desegregated. The newspaper report was published as the boycott started. Robinson's memoir was published more than thirty years later. These accounts are useful alongside photographs, meeting records, and court documents from the boycott.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the newspaper reporter include about transportation that Robinson does not include?

2. What does Robinson include about planning the boycott that the reporter does not include?

3. Which account relies more on observations of public conditions, and which relies more on remembered actions? Support your answer with one detail from each account.

4. How might the time each author wrote influence the details each presents? Use one detail from each account.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a different historical event. In exactly three sentences, name two authors or sources that could present it, state one detail each might include, and explain how their positions or time periods could shape their presentations.

ANSWER KEY

Two Views, One Boycott

GRADE 6 · 6.T.T.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details from the newspaper report and circle two details from Jo Ann Robinson's memoir. Number one pair of details that shows a difference in what each author chose to include. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the newspaper reporter include about transportation that Robinson does not include?	**The reporter includes public transportation conditions, such as nearly empty buses, people walking or carpooling, and traffic in the city.**
2	What does Robinson include about planning the boycott that the reporter does not include?	**Robinson includes the making and delivery of leaflets, late-night work, and worries about being discovered.**
3	Which account relies more on observations of public conditions, and which relies more on remembered actions? Support your answer with one detail from each account.	**The newspaper report relies more on public observations, such as nearly empty buses. Robinson's memoir relies more on remembered actions, such as using mimeograph machines to make leaflets.**
4	How might the time each author wrote influence the details each presents? Use one detail from each account.	**The reporter wrote as the boycott began, so the report includes visible conditions such as traffic and bus riders. Robinson wrote later, so she includes remembered planning details such as late-night leaflet work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Boston newspaper writer could describe colonists throwing tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party. A British customs official could report the tea that was destroyed and the cost to merchants. The writer's local viewpoint and the official's job could lead them to emphasize different parts of the same event.

Accept accurate contrasts supported by details from both accounts. For Part 3, require exactly three sentences that name two possible sources or authors, include one possible detail from each, and explain a likely difference in presentation.