Reading Between Lanes

Trace a writer's viewpoint and test the strength of the evidence.

8.T.C.2.b "Identify an author's bias and determine how that bias impacts text credibility. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline language that shows the writer's viewpoint or bias. Circle evidence or sources the writer uses, then number three details that make the argument more or less credible.

A Case for Maple Avenue

1. As president of the Riverside Cycling Club, I support the city's plan to add protected bike lanes on Maple Avenue. Last spring, I counted heavy traffic there during three afternoon rides. Cars often passed parked vehicles closely, and I saw several people on bicycles move onto the sidewalk. The city says the project would remove one travel lane in each direction and add physical barriers between bicycles and cars. Supporters argue that the change could make the street safer for riders, walkers, and drivers.

2. That safety benefit is obvious, and critics who predict traffic chaos are protecting their convenience. My club surveyed 42 members, and 38 said they would bike on Maple more often if barriers were built. Those responses show that the plan has overwhelming public support. The city should approve it without delay. Some business owners worry that fewer travel lanes could slow deliveries, but their concerns are small compared with the freedom this project would bring to thousands of residents.

3. Before deciding, readers should look beyond my club's survey. Traffic engineers can measure vehicle speeds, crash patterns, delivery times, and the number of people using each travel method. A survey of club members may accurately describe cyclists' views, but it cannot represent every resident or business. The city has not yet released final traffic estimates for Maple Avenue. My experience on a bicycle gives me useful information about riding conditions, yet it does not prove that every predicted benefit will occur.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the author's likely bias? Use the passage to explain.

2. Identify two words or phrases that show the author's bias or strong viewpoint.

3. How does the Riverside Cycling Club survey affect the credibility of the author's claim about public support?

4. Which paragraph most improves the credibility of the text? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school or community proposal. In exactly three sentences, state a likely author's bias, explain one reason readers should be cautious about the author's credibility, and name one source or kind of evidence that could make the claim more credible.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.T.C.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline language that shows the writer's viewpoint or bias. Circle evidence or sources the writer uses, then number three details that make the argument more or less credible. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's likely bias? Use the passage to explain.	**The author favors protected bike lanes because the author is president of a cycling club and rides on Maple Avenue.**
2	Identify two words or phrases that show the author's bias or strong viewpoint.	**Answers may include "safety benefit is obvious," "protecting their convenience," "overwhelming public support," "without delay," or "their concerns are small."**
3	How does the Riverside Cycling Club survey affect the credibility of the author's claim about public support?	**It gives some evidence about cyclists' opinions, but it is not fully credible evidence of public support because it surveyed only 42 club members, not all residents or businesses.**
4	Which paragraph most improves the credibility of the text? Explain why.	**Paragraph 3 most improves credibility because it admits the survey's limits, names useful data from traffic engineers, and states that the author's experience does not prove every benefit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A student who plays on the soccer team may favor spending money on new field lights. Readers should be cautious if the student uses only teammates' opinions because those views may not represent neighbors who live near the field. City noise data and comments from nearby residents would make the argument more credible.

Accept reasonable identifications of the author's pro-cycling bias when supported by passage details. For the open task, accept varied topics if the response has exactly three sentences and includes bias, a credibility concern, and a relevant stronger source or evidence type.