One Street, Two Reports

Separate conflicting facts from competing interpretations.

9.T.T.2.b "Analyze texts with conflicting information or opposing viewpoints and determine where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretations. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim that gives a number or explains how survey answers were counted. Circle each claim that predicts or judges the bike lane's effect, then number pairs of claims that disagree.

The Maple Avenue Debate

1. In the fictional city of Harbor Point, officials are considering a protected bike lane on Maple Avenue. The City Planning Office released a report on a 1,200-response survey. It states that 68 percent of respondents supported replacing one parking lane with a bike lane, while 21 percent opposed it. The report also predicts that the change would make the avenue safer because separated lanes reduce conflicts between bicycles and cars. Planning director Lena Cho calls the survey "clear evidence that residents want a safer street." The report recommends building the lane during next summer's repaving project.

2. Maple Avenue Merchants, a business group, challenges both the survey result and the recommendation. Its review says that 42 percent of the same 1,200 respondents supported the bike lane, not 68 percent. The group claims the city consultant counted "somewhat support" answers as support, although the survey's published summary grouped those answers as neutral. The merchants also point to delivery drivers who use curbside parking. Spokesperson Raul Medina argues that removing parking would harm small stores more than it would improve safety. He proposes testing the lane on one block before making a permanent change.

3. In a reply, the Planning Office says its 68 percent figure is correct and says the merchants misread the survey. According to the office, the summary listed 42 percent as "strongly support," then added 26 percent who selected "somewhat support." It says the summary never called those responses neutral. The office agrees that deliveries matter, but interprets a protected lane as a benefit to businesses because more people may walk or bike to stores. Both sides use the survey and street conditions, yet they disagree about the survey's categories and about the likely effect on local businesses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What factual survey result does Maple Avenue Merchants challenge? State the City Planning Office's number and the merchants' number.

2. What do the two sources say about the "somewhat support" survey responses?

3. How do the two sources interpret the bike lane's likely effect on local businesses?

4. What point do both sides accept about deliveries, and why does that agreement not end their disagreement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note to the city council recommending a next step before it decides. Identify the disputed survey classification, explain why it affects the support total, distinguish that factual issue from a prediction about businesses, and request one piece of evidence.

ANSWER KEY

One Street, Two Reports

GRADE 9 · 9.T.T.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each claim that gives a number or explains how survey answers were counted. Circle each claim that predicts or judges the bike lane's effect, then number pairs of claims that disagree. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What factual survey result does Maple Avenue Merchants challenge? State the City Planning Office's number and the merchants' number.	**The Planning Office says 68 percent of the 1,200 respondents supported the bike lane. The merchants say 42 percent supported it.**
2	What do the two sources say about the "somewhat support" survey responses?	**The merchants say the published summary grouped "somewhat support" responses as neutral. The Planning Office says it added those responses to the 42 percent who selected "strongly support" and that the summary never called them neutral.**
3	How do the two sources interpret the bike lane's likely effect on local businesses?	**The merchants predict that losing parking would harm small stores, especially because of deliveries. The Planning Office predicts that businesses could benefit because more people may walk or bike to stores.**
4	What point do both sides accept about deliveries, and why does that agreement not end their disagreement?	**Both sides acknowledge that deliveries matter. They still disagree because the merchants see parking loss as harmful, while the Planning Office sees the bike lane as potentially beneficial to businesses.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before deciding, the council should examine whether "somewhat support" responses were classified as support or neutral. That classification helps explain why the Planning Office reports 68 percent support while the merchants report 42 percent. The separate claim about whether stores will benefit or suffer is a prediction, not a survey-counting fact. The council should request the full survey questionnaire and response table from the consultant.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the conflict over how "somewhat support" responses were categorized and counted. Students should distinguish this factual disagreement from the competing predictions about effects on businesses.