The Fee That Wasn't

Trace how a false claim changes group decisions.

S.6.11 "Investigate how incorrect communications, such as rumors or gossip, can influence group behavior."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the mistaken claim and the evidence that corrects it. Circle two group decisions the claim influenced, then number the steps that spread it.

A Rumor About the Clothing Swap

1. At Jefferson High, the student council planned a Saturday clothing swap in the gym. Students could bring clean clothes and take what they needed without paying. On Monday, a student noticed a draft budget listing a $10 cleaning deposit. She assumed every participant would owe $10 and told two friends. One friend posted, "The swap costs ten dollars," in a class group chat. The deposit was actually a single charge to the council for using the gym, not a fee for students. The message offered no link to the budget or the event notice.

2. By the next morning, the message had reached several sports teams. A few students said they would skip the swap because ten dollars was too much. In one team chat, a captain wrote, "Let's all stay away until they drop the fee." Teammates who had not seen the original post agreed, partly because they did not want to be the only ones to attend. Council volunteers then expected a small crowd and considered canceling. What began as one mistaken reading of a budget line had become a shared plan that could change turnout and the council's decision.

3. At lunch, a council member checked the approved budget with the faculty adviser and shared the event notice, which said admission was free. The captain posted a correction in the team chat and said the earlier message was wrong. Several teammates decided to attend, and the council kept the swap on the calendar. Still, some students had seen only a screenshot of the first post, not the correction, and continued to say the swap cost money. The council put "Free admission" on the school announcement, then asked team captains to share the update in their chats.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did one student's mistaken reading become a claim that reached several sports teams?

2. Why did some teammates agree to stay away even though they had not seen the original post?

3. How did the false fee claim affect both students' plans and the council's plans?

4. Why did the council ask team captains to share the correction after the school announcement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a false rumor about a community event other than a clothing swap. In five sentences, show how it spreads, changes a group decision, and is checked and corrected; explain why the correction might not reach everyone.

The Fee That Wasn't

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the mistaken claim and the evidence that corrects it. Circle two group decisions the claim influenced, then number the steps that spread it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did one student's mistaken reading become a claim that reached several sports teams?	**She told two friends, one friend posted the false fee claim in a class group chat, and the message reached several sports teams.**
2	Why did some teammates agree to stay away even though they had not seen the original post?	**They followed the captain's plan partly because they did not want to be the only ones to attend.**
3	How did the false fee claim affect both students' plans and the council's plans?	**Some students planned to skip the swap. Expecting a small crowd, council volunteers considered canceling it.**
4	Why did the council ask team captains to share the correction after the school announcement?	**Some students had seen only a screenshot of the false post and still believed there was a fee. Sharing the correction in team chats could reach them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighbor falsely claims the weekend park cleanup has been moved to Sunday. Two friends repeat the claim in a neighborhood chat, and several volunteers agree to stay home on Saturday. A volunteer checks the city's event page and learns the cleanup is still on Saturday. She posts the correct date and asks the chat moderator to pin it. Some volunteers may still miss the update because they read only an earlier screenshot.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how the claim spread, influenced decisions, or persisted. For Part 3, look for a clear chain from false claim to group action, plus a plausible check, correction, and reason the correction might miss people.