When Ties Fray

Trace how disruptions can combine to weaken a community.

S.8.8 "Examine factors that could lead to the breakdown and disruption of an existing community."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline changes that could disrupt Bellport, circle their effects on people or cooperation, and number one cause-and-effect chain in order.

What Changed in Bellport?

1. In the fictional river town of Bellport, the packing plant employed hundreds of residents and sponsored the community center. When the plant closed, many families lost income at once. Some moved to find work, leaving fewer customers for local shops. As shops shut their doors, the town collected less sales tax and cut evening bus service. For residents who worked outside Bellport, the shorter schedule made commuting harder. A job loss that began at one workplace now reached households, businesses, and public services. The town still existed, but the routines that brought neighbors together were becoming harder to keep.

2. Two years later, heavy rain flooded the low streets where many renters lived. Repairs took months, and some landlords did not reopen their buildings. Displaced residents stayed with relatives in other towns or took apartments far from familiar neighbors. The community center, already short of funding, closed after its basement was damaged. Its meeting rooms had hosted tenant groups, youth programs, and shared meals. Without that common place, people had fewer chances to exchange information or organize help. Flooding did not affect every block equally, but it weakened connections that had supported the whole town.

3. At a public meeting, officials proposed using limited funds to repair the bus route before reopening the community center. Some residents supported the plan because they needed rides to work; others argued that displaced families needed a place to coordinate housing help. Rumors spread online that one neighborhood had secretly been promised all the repairs, although no such promise had been made. Attendance at later meetings fell, and volunteers struggled to recruit helpers. Bellport's community had not vanished. Still, lost jobs, displacement, closed gathering places, and distrust were combining to make shared decisions and daily cooperation more difficult.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the plant closure lead to a problem for residents who worked outside Bellport? Trace the steps.

2. How did the flood disrupt connections among residents in two different ways?

3. Why could flooding on some streets weaken the wider Bellport community?

4. How did disagreement over repairs and the false rumor make it harder for Bellport residents to respond together?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a different community where a major road closes for months and a neighborhood clinic reduces its hours. In one paragraph of 5 to 6 sentences, explain how these changes could interact to disrupt community ties, name one group likely to face greater difficulty, and suggest one action residents could take to keep cooperating.

When Ties Fray

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline changes that could disrupt Bellport, circle their effects on people or cooperation, and number one cause-and-effect chain in order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the plant closure lead to a problem for residents who worked outside Bellport? Trace the steps.	**The closure reduced family income. Some residents moved, shops lost customers and closed, sales tax revenue fell, and the town cut evening bus service, making commutes harder.**
2	How did the flood disrupt connections among residents in two different ways?	**It displaced residents from familiar neighbors and damaged the community center, which then closed. People lost both nearby contacts and a place to meet and organize help.**
3	Why could flooding on some streets weaken the wider Bellport community?	**Displaced residents moved away from familiar neighbors, and the damaged community center closed, reducing opportunities for people across town to exchange information and organize help.**
4	How did disagreement over repairs and the false rumor make it harder for Bellport residents to respond together?	**Residents disagreed about whether to prioritize the bus route or the community center. The false rumor added distrust, meeting attendance fell, and volunteers had trouble recruiting helpers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When the main road closes, residents may need longer trips to reach jobs and one another. If the neighborhood clinic also cuts hours, people with limited transportation could miss appointments. Older residents who cannot drive may face greater difficulty. As neighbors spend more time traveling or caring for sick relatives, fewer may attend local meetings or help with shared projects. Residents could organize a phone tree to coordinate rides and share accurate clinic hours, keeping people connected despite the disruptions.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect chains in Part 2. For Part 3, accept plausible explanations that connect both changes to community ties, identify a group affected, and propose a cooperative response.