

Source Check

Evaluate how different media venues support public-policy claims.

12.G5d “Active and engaged citizens must be effective media consumers in order to be able to find, monitor, and evaluate information on political issues. The media have different venues...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what each source can establish. Circle missing evidence or limits. Mark checks to make before sharing.

Checking a Bus Fare Proposal

- ① In a fictional city, Riverbend’s council considers raising bus fares from \$1.50 to \$1.75. Maya finds a council agenda scheduling a May 14 hearing and a staff report estimating \$420,000 in added annual revenue. These records support claims about the proposal, scheduled meeting, and official estimate. They do not prove the measure will pass or the revenue prediction will come true. Maya should check whether the agenda has been updated.
- ② A television report interviews the transit director and links to the staff report. Viewers can hear the director’s reasoning, but the short segment omits details from the full report. A rider-advocacy group posts a graphic claiming, “The fare hike will hurt every rider.” The graphic has no date, supporting data, or links to original documents. The claim raises a question but does not establish an effect on every rider. Its weakness is missing evidence, not merely its advocacy viewpoint or social-media format.
- ③ Maya checks creators, dates, original records, and corroborating reports. She distinguishes documented facts from opinions and predictions, and investigates rider surveys or budget alternatives. Several sites repeating the same unsupported claim are not independent confirmation. Venues can inform people and invite debate in different ways: official records document government action, reporting adds questions and context, and advocacy expresses viewpoints. Any source’s specific claims still need evaluation. Maya can withhold judgment when evidence is insufficient and monitor later updates.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which source gives the strongest evidence that a public hearing is scheduled for May 14? What makes that source strong?

2 What is one limitation of the television report?

3 Name the three missing details that make the advocacy group’s social-media graphic weak evidence on its own.

4 What two shared purposes of media venues does the passage name? What distinct contribution can a news report make?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

For a fictional park renovation, use three rows to compare sources: what each can establish, and one question or limit to check. Use the passage’s approach.

SOURCE OR VENUE	WHAT IT CAN VERIFY	QUESTION OR LIMIT TO CONSIDER

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline what each source can establish. Circle missing evidence or limits. Mark checks to make before sharing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source gives the strongest evidence that a public hearing is scheduled for May 14? What makes that source strong?	The city council agenda. It is an official record that lists the public-hearing date.
2	What is one limitation of the television report?	The short segment leaves out some details from the full staff report.
3	Name the three missing details that make the advocacy group's social-media graphic weak evidence on its own.	The graphic lacks a date, supporting data, and links to original documents.
4	What two shared purposes of media venues does the passage name? What distinct contribution can a news report make?	Media venues can inform the public and invite debate. A news report can add questioning and context.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE OR VENUE	WHAT IT CAN VERIFY	QUESTION OR LIMIT TO CONSIDER
City council agenda	Whether a park-renovation proposal is on the council's schedule	Is this the most current agenda?
Local news report	Questions asked of officials and community context	Does it link to the original proposal or quote more than one source?
Neighborhood association post	Residents' opinions about the renovation	Who wrote it, and does it include evidence beyond opinion?

Accept sources and checks that fit the student's selected local policy proposal. Strong responses distinguish what a venue can reliably show from a question, missing evidence, or possible limitation.