Courtyard Clues

Compare three sources about a school decision.

6.P.2.2.A "Gather and draw conclusions from sources of evidence, identifying plausible author, occasion, audience, purpose, and possible bias."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues about who made each source, and circle clues about whom it tries to reach. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside one claim or missing fact in each source that could reveal bias.

What Should Happen to the Courtyard?

1. At Cedar Grove Middle School, the principal is considering turning a small courtyard garden into bicycle parking. A note taped beside the garden gate says, "Please keep this space for plants. Our club planted tomatoes here in September, and science classes have used the beds to study insects. We know some riders need places to lock their bikes, but we hope the school can find another spot." The note is signed "Garden Club members" and asks students to add their names before Friday's school meeting.

2. A sheet in the principal's mailbox has no signature, but its heading reads "Courtyard Care Report." It lists three broken boards along the garden beds and says staff spent six hours pulling weeds last month. "A paved area would be easier to maintain," the sheet argues. Near the bottom, a handwritten line says, "Please share this with the staff who plan next year's repair budget." The report does not say whether anyone checked other places for bicycle parking or asked students how they use the garden.

3. A flyer appears on the community bulletin board the week before the meeting. It says, "Wheel House Bikes can supply strong new racks for Cedar Grove. More bike parking could help students ride to school. Ask us about our price for ten racks!" At the bottom are the shop's address and a phone number, along with the words "Bring this flyer to the principal." The flyer gives no count of students who ride bikes now. It also does not mention the garden beds that would be removed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who most likely wrote the unsigned report? Give two clues that support your answer.

2. What event likely prompted the Garden Club note, and whom does the note try to reach? Give a clue for each answer.

3. What does the bike shop want readers to do, and whom does the flyer try to reach? Use details from the flyer.

4. Which source might have a financial reason to favor new racks? Explain its possible bias and name one missing fact that would help you judge its claim.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town may close its public pool on Mondays. Write a two-sentence message from a swim coach to the town council. Then write three sentences identifying the message's author, occasion, audience, purpose, and possible bias, using details from your message as evidence.

ANSWER KEY

Courtyard Clues

GRADE 6 · 6.P.2.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues about who made each source, and circle clues about whom it tries to reach. Write 1, 2, and 3 beside one claim or missing fact in each source that could reveal bias. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who most likely wrote the unsigned report? Give two clues that support your answer.	**A staff member who maintains the grounds likely wrote it. The report describes broken garden boards and records staff time spent pulling weeds.**
2	What event likely prompted the Garden Club note, and whom does the note try to reach? Give a clue for each answer.	**The proposal to turn the garden into bicycle parking prompted it. The note tries to reach students by asking them to add their names, and it seeks to influence the principal's decision.**
3	What does the bike shop want readers to do, and whom does the flyer try to reach? Use details from the flyer.	**It wants community members who see the flyer to bring it to the principal and consider buying racks from the shop. Its address and phone number also invite readers to contact the shop.**
4	Which source might have a financial reason to favor new racks? Explain its possible bias and name one missing fact that would help you judge its claim.	**The bike shop might profit from selling racks, so it may favor the plan. A count of students who currently ride bikes would help judge its claim that more parking could help riders.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear town council, please keep the public pool open on Mondays because my swim team practices there after school. Closing it would leave our team with one less practice day, and I can help recruit volunteers to keep the pool running. The author is a swim coach writing while the council considers a Monday closure. The greeting shows the council is the audience, and the coach wants its members to keep the pool open. The coach may favor staying open because the message stresses team practice but says nothing about operating costs.

Accept other plausible inferences when students support them with passage details. For the open task, check that the message has two sentences and the analysis has three sentences covering all five requested source features.