Evidence After the Fire

Read a historical argument, then build one of your own.

6.P.4.1 "Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects, and presentations for multiple purposes related to social studies content..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim, circle the name of each source, and number the details that support the claim. Mark the opposing viewpoint with an O so you can see how the writer responds to it.

What the Triangle Fire Changed

1 In 1911, a fire tore through the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. Workers made clothing on the upper floors of a tall building. I argue that governments should have required safer factory exits, even if owners faced extra costs. According to Cornell University's Kheel Center, 146 workers died in the fire. Many victims were young immigrant women. That number is not just a shocking detail. It shows how dangerous a workplace can become when workers cannot get out quickly.

2 The New York State Department of Labor explains that the disaster helped bring about new rules to protect workers from fires. Rules about exits matter because a clear way out can save lives when smoke spreads. Cornell University's Kheel Center also describes how some exit doors at the factory were locked during the fire. Together, these sources show both the danger workers faced and a public response to that danger. The first source gives a concrete example; the second shows that people used lessons from the fire to change policy.

3 Some factory owners might argue that adding safety features costs money. That concern deserves attention, but saving money cannot justify trapping workers during an emergency. The locked exits described by the Kheel Center make the risk clear, while the labor department's account shows that lawmakers later treated safety as a public duty. These sources do not prove that every new rule worked perfectly. They do support a narrower conclusion: requiring usable exits was a reasonable response to a deadly fire. Protecting an exit matters most when every second counts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In your own words, summarize what the Kheel Center's evidence shows about the danger workers faced. Name the source.

2. How does evidence from both named sources support the writer's claim? Cite each source in your answer.

3. Put the opposing viewpoint in your own words. How does the writer answer it with evidence from a named source?

4. What conclusion do the sources support, and what stronger conclusion does the writer say they cannot prove?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Should a museum exhibit about the Triangle fire show both what workers faced and how laws changed afterward? Write one paragraph with a claim, an opposing viewpoint and your response to it. Paraphrase evidence from both sources in the passage and cite each by name.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence After the Fire

GRADE 6 · 6.P.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim, circle the name of each source, and number the details that support the claim. Mark the opposing viewpoint with an O so you can see how the writer responds to it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In your own words, summarize what the Kheel Center's evidence shows about the danger workers faced. Name the source.	**Cornell University's Kheel Center reports that 146 workers died and that some exit doors were locked, showing how hard it was for workers to escape.**
2	How does evidence from both named sources support the writer's claim? Cite each source in your answer.	**Cornell University's Kheel Center describes locked exits and 146 deaths, showing the danger. The New York State Department of Labor explains that the fire helped bring about safety rules, showing a public response.**
3	Put the opposing viewpoint in your own words. How does the writer answer it with evidence from a named source?	**Owners might say safety features cost too much. The writer responds that cost does not justify the risk, pointing to the locked exits described by the Kheel Center.**
4	What conclusion do the sources support, and what stronger conclusion does the writer say they cannot prove?	**The sources support requiring usable exits after the fire. The writer says they cannot prove that every new safety rule worked perfectly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A museum exhibit should show both the workers' experiences and the later changes to safety rules. Cornell University's Kheel Center reports that 146 people died and that some exit doors were locked. The New York State Department of Labor explains that the fire helped bring about new rules to protect workers. Some visitors might prefer an exhibit focused only on the day of the fire. But including what changed afterward would help them understand how people responded to the danger workers faced.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect the Kheel Center's evidence about the fire with the labor department's account of later rules. For the open task, look for a clear claim, an opposing viewpoint, a response, and citations to both named sources.