Evidence After the Fire

Trace how a historical argument uses two sources

6.P.4 "Develop a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes. Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's main claim and circle one fact credited to each source. Number the opposing view 1 and the writer's reply 2 to see how the argument handles a different point of view.

What the Triangle Fire Changed

(1) Could one factory fire change the rules for thousands of workers? In 1911, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. It killed 146 workers, many of them young immigrant women, according to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This account argues that the fire showed why stronger workplace safety rules were needed. The death toll matters, but a number alone cannot explain the danger. To understand the cause and the response, we need evidence from more than one source.

(2) The DOL explains that some exit doors were locked and that a fire escape collapsed. Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive includes witness accounts and records about the people who died. Together, these sources show both unsafe conditions and their human cost. Instead of copying a witness's words without credit, a writer could paraphrase a key finding: escape routes did not give every worker a safe way out (DOL). Naming the source lets readers check the evidence and separates researched facts from the writer's own reasoning.

(3) Someone might argue that a single factory should have fixed its own problems, without new rules for other workplaces. Yet the DOL reports that the fire helped bring about new safety laws in New York. Cornell's collection preserves accounts from people connected to the disaster, showing why the cost of unsafe exits cannot be treated as a minor mistake. These sources support a wider lesson: when lives depend on safe exits, rules should protect workers before another fire occurs. The opposing view is worth considering, but the evidence favors stronger protections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the writer's main claim? Give one fact credited to the DOL that supports it.

2. What kinds of records does the Cornell archive hold? Explain how they add to the DOL evidence.

3. Paraphrase the DOL finding about the factory's exits in your own words. Cite the source.

4. What opposing view does the writer recognize? Which DOL finding does the writer use in reply?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences proposing a Triangle fire museum display. Make a claim about what visitors should learn, paraphrase one detail from the DOL and one from Cornell with a citation for each, and explain how the details support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence After the Fire

GRADE 6 · 6.P.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim and circle one fact credited to each source. Number the opposing view 1 and the writer's reply 2 to see how the argument handles a different point of view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the writer's main claim? Give one fact credited to the DOL that supports it.	**Stronger workplace safety rules were needed. The DOL reports that some exit doors were locked and a fire escape collapsed.**
2	What kinds of records does the Cornell archive hold? Explain how they add to the DOL evidence.	**It holds witness accounts and records about those who died. They add people's experiences and the human cost to the DOL's account of unsafe conditions.**
3	Paraphrase the DOL finding about the factory's exits in your own words. Cite the source.	**Some workers could not escape safely because doors were locked and a fire escape collapsed (DOL).**
4	What opposing view does the writer recognize? Which DOL finding does the writer use in reply?	**The opposing view is that the factory should have fixed its own problems without new rules for other workplaces. In reply, the writer notes that the fire helped bring about new safety laws in New York (DOL).**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A museum display should teach visitors how historical records keep workers' experiences from being forgotten. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that 146 workers died in the Triangle fire (DOL). Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive holds witness accounts and records about those who died (Cornell). Together, these sources could help visitors connect the scale of the loss to the people behind the number.

Accept accurate paraphrases that name or cite the correct source. For the museum proposal, look for a clear claim, a relevant detail from each source, and reasoning that connects both details to the claim.