Beyond the Flames

Trace how two sources support a historical argument

7.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, circle the source names, and label one fact from the National Park Service 1 and one fact from Cornell's Kheel Center 2 to show how the writer builds an argument.

What the Triangle Fire Changed

1 When a fire broke out at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on March 25, 1911, workers on the upper floors had little time to escape. The fire killed 146 workers, many of them young immigrant women, according to the National Park Service. A door on the ninth floor was locked, and the fire escape collapsed, as records in Cornell University's Kheel Center collection show. These details support a clear claim: governments should require factories to keep exits usable and provide safe ways out. A workplace should not become a trap.

2 A factory owner might object that new safety rules cost money and slow work. That concern deserves attention, but it does not erase the danger shown by the fire. The National Park Service reports that the deaths helped spur changes in workplace safety laws. This fact shows that people at the time saw a need for stronger protection. Cornell's records give the reason behind that response: a locked door and a failed escape route could leave workers with few choices when flames spread.

3 An exhibit about the fire could tell visitors only how many people died. That number matters, but an exhibit should also explain why escape was so hard and what changed afterward. Cornell's collection provides details about conditions inside the factory, while the National Park Service connects the disaster to later safety reforms. Together, these sources help readers move beyond shock toward an explanation. The strongest account does not treat the fire as an isolated accident. It uses documented facts to argue that preventable risks require public action.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Paraphrase one fact from Cornell's Kheel Center collection that supports the claim about safe ways out. Name the source.

2. How does the National Park Service evidence about later laws support the writer's main claim?

3. What opposing viewpoint does the writer recognize, and how does evidence from Cornell's collection help answer it?

4. Why does the writer use both sources instead of reporting only the number of deaths?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence letter to your school board arguing whether a school assembly should include the history of workplace safety. State your claim, recognize one opposing view, and use a paraphrased fact from each source in the passage, naming each source.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Flames

GRADE 7 · 7.P.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's main claim, circle the source names, and label one fact from the National Park Service 1 and one fact from Cornell's Kheel Center 2 to show how the writer builds an argument. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Paraphrase one fact from Cornell's Kheel Center collection that supports the claim about safe ways out. Name the source.	**Cornell University's Kheel Center collection shows that a ninth-floor door was locked, which could keep workers from escaping.**
2	How does the National Park Service evidence about later laws support the writer's main claim?	**The National Park Service reports that the deaths helped spur changes in workplace safety laws, showing why government safety rules were needed.**
3	What opposing viewpoint does the writer recognize, and how does evidence from Cornell's collection help answer it?	**A factory owner might worry that safety rules cost money and slow work. Cornell's records show that a locked door and a collapsed fire escape left workers with dangerous escape options.**
4	Why does the writer use both sources instead of reporting only the number of deaths?	**Cornell's collection helps explain why escape was difficult, while the National Park Service connects the fire to later safety reforms.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear School Board, I think our school assembly should include the history of workplace safety. Some students might prefer an assembly about safety rules they use today. However, Cornell University's Kheel Center collection shows that a locked door and a collapsed fire escape made it harder for Triangle factory workers to escape. The National Park Service reports that the deaths helped spur changes in workplace safety laws. Learning what went wrong and what changed would help students understand why safety rules matter.

Accept accurate paraphrases that identify the relevant source. For the letter, look for a clear claim, an opposing view, two correctly attributed facts, and reasoning that connects the facts to the claim.