Sunday Bus Debate

Read three sources about a proposed bus service.

8.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 Circle clues to each writer and intended audience, then underline words that reveal each source's purpose or point of view.

Should Route 6 Run on Sundays?

1. Dear council members, our buses run Monday through Saturday, but no route serves riders on Sunday. At next month's budget meeting, please fund a three-month Sunday trial on Route 6, which passes the library and the farmers market. During one Saturday in April, drivers counted 46 riders who asked about Sunday trips. That number is not a prediction of Sunday ridership, but it suggests interest. A trial would let us collect actual Sunday counts before making a permanent promise. Sincerely, Mara Chen, Bellford Transit manager.

2. To the editor of the Bellford Ledger: I own a bakery beside the Route 6 stop, and I oppose the proposed Sunday trial. On Saturdays, customers already complain when buses block the curb for several minutes. I worry that another service day would make it harder for drivers to park near my door. The transit manager's count tells us what Saturday riders asked, not what Sunday shoppers need. Please publish this letter before the council's budget meeting so neighbors can tell their representatives what they think. Signed, Luis Ortega.

3. From the Bellford Library desk log, prepared for the council's budget meeting: One Sunday in April, staff asked 52 visitors if they would consider riding Route 6 on Sundays. Thirty-four said yes, 12 said no, and six were unsure. Staff asked only visitors who entered the library, not residents across town. The library is open on Sundays, with a bus stop across the street. We share these answers to inform the council's trial decision, not to claim most Bellford residents support Sunday buses. Signed, Nia Patel, library director.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who wrote the first source? Which words show its intended audience and the occasion for writing?

2. What does the second writer want readers to do? How might the writer's job shape the argument?

3. Why does the library source warn against treating its answers as the opinion of the whole town?

4. Using evidence from at least two sources, what can the council reasonably conclude about a Sunday trial, and what remains uncertain?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a parent whose teenager visits the library on Sundays, writing before the council votes on the trial. Write a two-sentence message to the council using one detail from the sources, then write two sentences identifying your audience, purpose, and one possible bias in your message.

ANSWER KEY

Sunday Bus Debate

GRADE 8 · 8.P.2.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle clues to each writer and intended audience, then underline words that reveal each source's purpose or point of view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who wrote the first source? Which words show its intended audience and the occasion for writing?	**Mara Chen, the transit manager, wrote it to council members for their upcoming budget meeting.**
2	What does the second writer want readers to do? How might the writer's job shape the argument?	**Ortega wants neighbors to tell representatives what they think before the budget meeting. As a bakery owner beside the stop, he may give extra weight to his customers' parking concerns.**
3	Why does the library source warn against treating its answers as the opinion of the whole town?	**Staff asked only people who visited the library on one Sunday, so the answers may not reflect what other residents think.**
4	Using evidence from at least two sources, what can the council reasonably conclude about a Sunday trial, and what remains uncertain?	**Some people show interest: 46 Saturday riders asked about Sunday trips, and 34 library visitors said they might ride. The council cannot yet know actual Sunday ridership, and the bakery owner raises a concern about parking.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Council members, please try Sunday service on Route 6 for three months. Thirty-four library visitors said they would consider riding it, and my teenager could use the stop across the street. I am writing to the council before its vote because I want members to approve the trial. As a parent of a library visitor, I may favor a bus that would help my own family.

Accept other supported conclusions that distinguish interest in the trial from proven Sunday ridership. In Part 3, the invented viewpoint may be persuasive, but its evidence must match the passage and its possible bias must be clear.