Boycott Evidence Check

Test claims about a historic protest against the written record

8.P.3.2.B "Evaluate textual evidence to determine whether a claim is substantiated."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that support a claim about the boycott, and circle one phrase that limits what the evidence can prove.

How Did the Montgomery Bus Boycott Work?

1. On December 1, 1955, police arrested Rosa Parks after she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. Soon afterward, members of the Women's Political Council distributed leaflets urging Black residents to stay off city buses on December 5. The council had discussed a bus protest before Parks's arrest because riders had long complained about unfair treatment. These details support the claim that Parks's arrest sparked the boycott. They do not support the stronger claim that she planned the protest alone.

2. On December 5, many Black residents avoided the buses. That evening, community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association, with Martin Luther King Jr. as its president. The group helped organize carpools as the protest continued. Some participants walked long distances to work, and others accepted rides from neighbors. Such accounts explain how people could keep the boycott going without bus service. They show that organized transportation mattered, but they cannot prove that every person who skipped the bus rode in a carpool.

3. The protest continued while a separate court case, Browder v. Gayle, challenged bus segregation. In 1956, a federal court ruled that segregated seating on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional, and the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that decision. After the ruling took effect, boycott leaders ended the protest in December 1956. City buses were then integrated. The court record supports a claim that legal action helped end the seating rule. It does not show that the boycott alone caused the judges to decide as they did.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A student claims that the Women's Political Council first considered a bus protest after Parks's arrest. Is this claim supported? Use evidence from the passage.

2. A student claims that every person who skipped the buses rode in a carpool. Is there enough evidence to support this claim? Explain.

3. Does the passage support the claim that community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association on the first day of the boycott? Cite the evidence.

4. A student claims that the boycott ended before a court ruled on bus segregation. Does the passage support this claim? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write your own claim about the roles of community action and legal action in the boycott. Test it with two details from different paragraphs, then explain one stronger claim those details cannot prove.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.P.3.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that support a claim about the boycott, and circle one phrase that limits what the evidence can prove. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A student claims that the Women's Political Council first considered a bus protest after Parks's arrest. Is this claim supported? Use evidence from the passage.	**No. The council had discussed a bus protest before Parks's arrest, though it distributed leaflets afterward.**
2	A student claims that every person who skipped the buses rode in a carpool. Is there enough evidence to support this claim? Explain.	**No. The passage says some participants walked or accepted rides from neighbors, and it does not account for every participant.**
3	Does the passage support the claim that community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association on the first day of the boycott? Cite the evidence.	**Yes. Residents avoided the buses on December 5, and community leaders formed the association that evening.**
4	A student claims that the boycott ended before a court ruled on bus segregation. Does the passage support this claim? Explain.	**No. The courts ruled on bus segregation before boycott leaders ended the protest in December 1956.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both community action and legal action played roles in the Montgomery bus boycott. The Women's Political Council distributed leaflets urging residents to avoid the buses. A federal court later ruled that segregated seating on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional. These details do not prove that the leaflet campaign caused the court's decision.

Accept claims that distinguish what the cited details support from what they cannot establish. For the open task, the two details must come from different paragraphs and address both community action and legal action.