Evidence After the Fire

Trace how two sources support an organized explanation

8.P.4.1.A "Compose informative essays and other written products using and citing evidence (e.g. facts, examples, details) from multiple sources and maintaining an organized structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts credited to the National Park Service and circle facts credited to Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive. Number the paragraphs to track how the writer moves from the disaster to its causes and effects.

Why the Triangle Fire Still Matters

1 On March 25, 1911, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. It was not just a workplace accident. It exposed how dangerous factory conditions could be. The National Park Service reports that 146 workers died, many of them young immigrant women. Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive explains that the factory occupied the top three floors of the Asch Building. Those details place the disaster in a real building and show who paid the highest price when workers could not escape.

2 Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive describes a fire escape that collapsed as workers tried to flee. The National Park Service reports that some exit doors were locked. Together, these sources explain why getting out was so difficult. A collapsed escape route left workers without one option, while locked doors blocked another. The death toll alone shows the scale of the loss, but these details help readers understand its causes. They also raise a question for city leaders: Who was responsible for keeping exits safe?

3 The fire changed more than public opinion. According to the National Park Service, New York created a Factory Investigating Commission after the disaster. Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive records the commission's work examining factory conditions and its role in bringing about new safety laws. These sources connect the tragedy to a response: officials investigated risks, and lawmakers acted. No law could erase the loss of 146 lives. The evidence shows why workplace safety became a public issue rather than a concern left only to factory owners.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sourced fact in paragraph one shows the scale of the loss, and which shows the factory's setting? Name each source.

2. How does one detail from each source in paragraph two support the claim that escape was difficult?

3. How does paragraph three use evidence from both sources to explain what happened after the fire?

4. Write one sentence stating the death toll with an in-text source citation. Then explain why you named the source.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label arguing which is more useful for understanding the fire: the death toll or details about escape routes. Use at least one fact from each named source, cite both sources by name, and end by explaining why both kinds of evidence matter.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence After the Fire

GRADE 8 · 8.P.4.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline facts credited to the National Park Service and circle facts credited to Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive. Number the paragraphs to track how the writer moves from the disaster to its causes and effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sourced fact in paragraph one shows the scale of the loss, and which shows the factory's setting? Name each source.	**The National Park Service reports that 146 workers died. Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive places the factory on the top three floors of the Asch Building.**
2	How does one detail from each source in paragraph two support the claim that escape was difficult?	**Cornell's archive describes a fire escape that collapsed, removing an escape route. The National Park Service reports locked exit doors, which blocked another route.**
3	How does paragraph three use evidence from both sources to explain what happened after the fire?	**The National Park Service identifies the creation of the Factory Investigating Commission. Cornell's archive connects its investigation of factory conditions to new safety laws.**
4	Write one sentence stating the death toll with an in-text source citation. Then explain why you named the source.	**The Triangle fire killed 146 workers (National Park Service). Naming the source lets readers know where the number came from.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A number tells visitors how large the Triangle fire was, but a broken escape route helps explain why so many lives were lost. According to the National Park Service, 146 workers died in the 1911 fire. Cornell University's Triangle Fire archive describes a fire escape that collapsed as workers tried to flee. The number shows the terrible scale of the disaster. The collapsed fire escape shows a specific danger workers faced at the factory. Both kinds of evidence matter because readers need to understand the loss and the conditions behind it.

Accept either choice of more useful evidence if the label supports it. Check for an organized 75 to 95 word response, accurate facts credited to both named sources, and a final sentence explaining the value of both kinds of evidence.