Evidence After the Fire

Trace a historical claim through evidence and sources.

8.P.4.1 "Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects, and presentations for multiple purposes related to social studies content..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the writer's claim, circle each source name, and number the facts used as evidence. Mark the opposing view with a star so you can see how the writer answers it.

What the Triangle Fire Changed

(1) On March 25, 1911, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City. Workers made blouses on the upper floors of a building. The fire killed 146 people, most of them young women, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in its account of the disaster. These facts support a clear claim: factory owners and city officials needed stronger rules for safe exits. A workplace cannot be called safe if workers cannot leave quickly when danger begins.

(2) Some factory owners argued that locked doors helped prevent theft and kept workers from leaving early. The Cornell University Kheel Center's Triangle Fire collection reports that an exit door was locked during the fire, blocking an escape route. A door that protects merchandise but traps people puts property ahead of lives. This detail does not prove that every factory owner locked every door. It does show why a rule requiring usable exits mattered more than an owner's wish to control movement during the workday.

(3) Evidence of what followed makes the argument stronger. OSHA explains that the disaster prompted stronger workplace safety protections. Cornell's collection describes the public protests and investigations that followed the deaths. Together, the sources show that people responded through both public pressure and government action. Neither source proves that every later workplace became safe. Instead, the record supports a narrower conclusion: when escape routes fail, a tragedy can push communities to demand changes that protect workers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. State the writer's claim in your own words. Name one source fact the writer uses to support it.

2. How does the writer combine evidence from OSHA and Cornell in paragraph 3? Explain what each source adds.

3. What opposing view appears in paragraph 2? How does the writer answer it using sourced evidence?

4. A student writes, "Every factory became safe after 1911." Replace that sentence with a more careful claim supported by a source in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label arguing that the Triangle fire belongs in an exhibit about workers' rights. Include an opposing view and a response, use a fact from OSHA and a different fact from Cornell, and name each source beside its evidence.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence After the Fire

GRADE 8 · 8.P.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the writer's claim, circle each source name, and number the facts used as evidence. Mark the opposing view with a star so you can see how the writer answers it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the writer's claim in your own words. Name one source fact the writer uses to support it.	**Factory exits needed stronger safety rules. The Cornell University Kheel Center reports that a locked door blocked an escape route during the fire.**
2	How does the writer combine evidence from OSHA and Cornell in paragraph 3? Explain what each source adds.	**OSHA provides evidence that the fire prompted stronger safety protections. Cornell describes protests and investigations. Together, they show both government action and public pressure.**
3	What opposing view appears in paragraph 2? How does the writer answer it using sourced evidence?	**Some owners argued that locked doors prevented theft and early departures. The writer answers that protecting property should not trap workers, citing Cornell's report of a locked exit door during the fire.**
4	A student writes, "Every factory became safe after 1911." Replace that sentence with a more careful claim supported by a source in the passage.	**The fire prompted stronger workplace safety protections, according to OSHA, but the passage does not say every factory became safe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A museum exhibit about workers' rights should include the 1911 Triangle fire because it reveals how unsafe conditions can cost lives. OSHA reports that 146 people died in the fire. Some visitors might argue that an event from more than a century ago cannot teach us much now. Yet the Cornell University Kheel Center describes protests and investigations after the fire. Those actions show people questioning dangerous conditions and seeking change. Displaying this history helps visitors consider why workers need ways to escape safely.

Accept accurate paraphrases and citations that clearly identify OSHA or the Cornell University Kheel Center. For the museum label, check that each source contributes a distinct fact and that the response addresses the opposing view.