Evidence Into Action

Trace how an informative argument uses two historical sources.

E.P.4.1.A "Compose informative essays and written products, developing a thesis, citing and incorporating evidence from multiple sources and maintaining an organized, formal structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the thesis and circle the name of each source. Number two sentences that explain how source evidence supports the thesis.

After the Triangle Fire

1 The 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City shows why workplace safety cannot depend on employers' choices alone. Public rules and inspections became essential because the fire exposed dangerous escape conditions and prompted a state investigation. The Cornell University Kheel Center's account records that 146 workers died when flames swept through the upper floors of the factory. It also describes how some workers encountered locked exits while trying to flee. This evidence matters because a fire becomes far more deadly when people cannot leave quickly. The disaster was not simply an accident of bad timing.

2 The New York State Factory Investigating Commission studied factory conditions after the fire. In its 1913 report, the commission called for better fire protection, safer exits, and more effective inspections. Its recommendations addressed problems that a single factory owner's promises could not solve. Read alongside the Kheel Center's account, the report shows a link between a documented danger and a practical response: workers needed routes out, and officials needed ways to check whether those routes were usable. The commission's findings also shifted the discussion from blame for one disaster to standards that could protect workers in many buildings.

3 An investigation alone does not protect anyone; its findings must shape enforceable policy. New York lawmakers responded to the commission's work by adopting new factory safety laws in the years after the fire. This sequence strengthens the argument for public oversight, although it does not prove that every later workplace became safe. The Kheel Center's account supplies evidence of the human cost of blocked escape, while the commission's report identifies actions the state could take. Together, the sources support a focused conclusion: safety rules are most useful when inspections make their requirements more than words on paper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What thesis does the first paragraph develop?

2. How does the writer use evidence from the Kheel Center to support that thesis?

3. What does the commission's report add to the argument that the Kheel Center's account does not?

4. How does the final paragraph bring the two sources together to support its conclusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one formal paragraph arguing whether present-day warehouses should be required to keep exits usable and practice fire drills. State your own thesis, identify and incorporate evidence from both sources in the passage, and explain how each source supports your position.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Into Action

HIGH SCHOOL · E.P.4.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the thesis and circle the name of each source. Number two sentences that explain how source evidence supports the thesis. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What thesis does the first paragraph develop?	**Workplace safety requires public rules and inspections, not just employers' choices.**
2	How does the writer use evidence from the Kheel Center to support that thesis?	**The writer cites 146 deaths and locked exits, then explains that people face greater danger in a fire when they cannot escape quickly.**
3	What does the commission's report add to the argument that the Kheel Center's account does not?	**It identifies responses to unsafe conditions, including better fire protection, safer exits, and more effective inspections.**
4	How does the final paragraph bring the two sources together to support its conclusion?	**It pairs the Kheel Center's evidence of the human cost of blocked exits with the commission's proposed actions, supporting rules backed by inspections.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Present-day warehouses should be required to keep exits usable and practice fire drills because workers need a reliable way out during an emergency. The Cornell University Kheel Center reports that some Triangle factory workers faced locked exits during the 1911 fire, when 146 people died. That history shows how a blocked route can make a fire more dangerous. The New York State Factory Investigating Commission's 1913 report called for safer exits and stronger inspections. Applying those recommendations to warehouses would help officials check escape routes before a crisis, while drills would help workers use them quickly.

Accept paraphrases that accurately distinguish the Kheel Center's account of the fire from the commission's recommendations. In Part 3, look for a distinct warehouse-focused thesis, evidence attributed to both sources, and an explanation of how the evidence supports the claim.