One Street, Two Views

Examine how writers use the same facts to support different conclusions.

WG.P.3.2.B "Evaluate the author's point of view, potential bias, and how authors can reach different conclusions regarding the same issue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a phrase that shows each writer's position, circle one detail each writer uses as evidence, and write 1 and 2 beside their different conclusions. Use your marks to compare how the writers interpret the same change.

The Cedar Street Trial

1 In the fictional city of Bellport, officials replaced twelve curbside parking spaces on Cedar Street with a bike lane protected by flexible posts. The six-month trial prompted two opinion pieces in the local paper. Before the change, volunteers counted 40 people biking along the block on one Tuesday; during the trial, they counted 78 on another Tuesday. Those snapshots do not show whether riding became safer or whether shops gained or lost customers. Both writers received the same city summary, which listed the parking change and the two counts but included no sales figures or collision records.

2 Maya Chen, who leads Bellport's cycling coalition, argues that the city should keep the lane. She points to the higher rider count and describes the posts as a welcome barrier between bicycles and moving cars. In her piece, she writes, "More people are choosing this route, so the new design deserves a permanent place on Cedar Street." Chen's group has campaigned for bike routes for years, and some members use this block daily. Her argument links the count to demand for a route, but the two days of counting cannot show how many people would ride there in other seasons.

3 Luis Ortega, who represents a Cedar Street merchants' group, urges the city to remove the lane and restore the parking. He emphasizes that twelve spaces disappeared and quotes two shop owners who say customers now complain about finding a spot. Ortega writes, "A busy bike lane does not make up for lost shoppers." His group depends on nearby businesses, so their concerns may shape which voices he includes. Yet the city summary contains no sales figures, and two owners' reports cannot establish whether business fell across the whole block. Chen and Ortega read the same summary but choose different signs of success.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does each writer want the city to do, and which detail does each emphasize?

2. How might Chen's role shape her argument? Name one detail she highlights and one limit of that detail.

3. How might Ortega's role affect whose views he includes? What evidence is missing from his claim about shoppers?

4. How do the writers reach opposite conclusions from the same city summary? Compare what each treats as a sign of success.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four to five sentences as a council member deciding whether to extend the trial for three months. State your decision, propose two new kinds of evidence that could test the writers' claims, and explain how your own point of view might affect your decision.

One Street, Two Views

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a phrase that shows each writer's position, circle one detail each writer uses as evidence, and write 1 and 2 beside their different conclusions. Use your marks to compare how the writers interpret the same change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does each writer want the city to do, and which detail does each emphasize?	**Chen wants to keep the lane and emphasizes the higher rider count. Ortega wants to remove it and emphasizes the loss of twelve parking spaces.**
2	How might Chen's role shape her argument? Name one detail she highlights and one limit of that detail.	**As a cycling coalition leader, Chen may favor bike routes. She highlights the rise from 40 to 78 riders, but counts from only two Tuesdays cannot show typical use across seasons.**
3	How might Ortega's role affect whose views he includes? What evidence is missing from his claim about shoppers?	**As a merchants' representative, Ortega includes shop owners' complaints. Sales figures are missing, so their reports cannot establish that business fell across the block.**
4	How do the writers reach opposite conclusions from the same city summary? Compare what each treats as a sign of success.	**Chen treats the higher rider count as a reason to keep the lane. Ortega treats parking access for shoppers as more important and wants the spaces restored.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would extend the trial for three months rather than make the lane permanent yet. I would ask willing shops for monthly sales totals from the trial and the same months a year earlier to check whether business changed, while noting that other factors could affect sales. I would also have trained observers record conflicts between bikes and cars on several weekdays and compare them with any available records from before the lane was built. I usually bike to town, so I might overlook how the parking change affects customers who drive.

Accept different markings and supported interpretations of each writer's potential bias. A strong open response proposes evidence beyond the two rider counts and recognizes a limitation in the student's own viewpoint.