One Street, Two Views

Compare how writers select evidence and interpret shared facts.

8.T.T.2.b "Analyze and evaluate how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence that Ortiz emphasizes once and evidence that Cho emphasizes twice. Circle each writer's conclusion or recommendation, then number the shared traffic-count fact and the two different ways the writers use it.

A Debate on Maple Avenue

(1) This classroom-authored case uses fictional Riverton, fictional writers and fictional public records. Riverton is considering a protected bike lane on Maple Avenue, a busy street that connects two middle schools, a library, and several stores. The proposal would replace one lane of car traffic with a lane separated from vehicles by low barriers. City planners collected traffic counts, crash reports, and survey responses before holding a public meeting. Two local writers studied the same public records. Each writer agrees that Maple Avenue needs changes, but they reach different conclusions about which change would best serve the community.

(2) **Lena Ortiz, Riverton Gazette: Protect the Direct Route**

I support the protected lane. Crash reports show that 18 people riding bicycles were injured on Maple Avenue during the previous five years. The city traffic count also shows about 600 cyclists on a typical weekday. To me, these facts show that riders need a safer, direct route. I recognize the survey concern that some drivers expect slower trips, but barriers could make the street more predictable for everyone, including people walking across it. Safety should lead our decision.

3 **Daniel Cho, Maple Avenue Business Journal: Keep Access Working**

I oppose the protected lane in its proposed form. The same city traffic count shows nearly 12,000 cars on a typical weekday. Store owners say in the survey that delivery vehicles would have fewer places to stop. I interpret those records as a warning: removing a car lane could create congestion and hurt nearby businesses. We should instead paint bike lanes on side streets and enforce speeds more strictly on Maple Avenue. Access for deliveries and traffic flow should lead our decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Ortiz and Cho use the city traffic count differently?

2. What evidence does Ortiz emphasize that Cho does not emphasize, and how does it support her position?

3. What survey information does Cho emphasize, and what conclusion does he draw from it?

4. What different priorities shape the writers' conclusions? Use one detail from each writer.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town is considering a protected bike lane on Harbor Road. Its records show three bicycle crashes last year, about 40 cyclists each weekday, and about 2,000 cars each weekday. Write four sentences about two authors with different views of the plan. Have each author emphasize evidence and explain what that author thinks the evidence means.

ANSWER KEY

One Street, Two Views

GRADE 8 · 8.T.T.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline evidence that Ortiz emphasizes once and evidence that Cho emphasizes twice. Circle each writer's conclusion or recommendation, then number the shared traffic-count fact and the two different ways the writers use it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Ortiz and Cho use the city traffic count differently?	**Ortiz emphasizes about 600 cyclists to support a safer direct route. Cho emphasizes nearly 12,000 cars to warn that removing a car lane could cause congestion.**
2	What evidence does Ortiz emphasize that Cho does not emphasize, and how does it support her position?	**Ortiz emphasizes that 18 bicyclists were injured during five years. She uses those crash reports to argue that riders need a protected, safer route.**
3	What survey information does Cho emphasize, and what conclusion does he draw from it?	**Cho emphasizes store owners' concerns that delivery vehicles would have fewer places to stop. He concludes that the proposed protected lane could hurt nearby businesses.**
4	What different priorities shape the writers' conclusions? Use one detail from each writer.	**Ortiz prioritizes safety for cyclists and walkers, using injury reports and cyclist counts. Cho prioritizes traffic flow and businesses, using car counts and store owners' delivery concerns.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Author A supports a protected lane on Harbor Road. She emphasizes the three bicycle crashes and argues that barriers could prevent more injuries. Author B opposes removing a car lane, pointing to the 2,000 daily cars and the 40 daily riders. He interprets those numbers as a reason to improve crossings instead of building a protected lane.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect each writer's selected evidence to that writer's conclusion. For Part 3, accept varied positions if both authors use the given facts differently and explain different interpretations.