# The Pickup Claim

Search, check, and cite evidence about bus idling

**6-8.WHST.8** "Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. Use search terms effectively. Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the two source titles, circle the parenthetical citation, and number three clues that help you judge whether a claim is trustworthy.

### What Happens at the Curb?

1. In this invented school research example, Maya asks whether turning off bus engines at pickup could make the curb cleaner. She first searches "buses pollution" and gets pages about factories and bus routes. A narrower search, "school bus idling exhaust pickup," points her toward local records and an air-quality agency. Maya needs two kinds of evidence: a count of what happens at her school and an explanation of what idling does. A catchy headline alone cannot tell her either of those things.

2. Her print source is Lena Vega's "Bus Line Notes," issued by the fictional Pine Creek School Transportation Office on October 2, 2026. Vega counted 12 buses waiting at pickup and saw 8 with engines running at 3:00 p.m. on one afternoon. Her digital source is the fictional River County Air Office's "Engine Off at Pickup," posted September 1, 2026. It explains that a running engine produces exhaust even when a bus is not moving. One local count shows a moment, not a daily pattern or a measured health effect.

3. An unsigned blog post titled "The Bus Cure" claims that switching off engines will end every student's breathing problems. It gives no measurements or sources. Maya leaves that claim out because its certainty goes far beyond the evidence. In her draft, she writes, "At one pickup, eight of twelve buses had running engines (Vega)." That sentence puts the local count in her own words and credits its author. Before making a claim about health, Maya would need trustworthy health data that neither source provides.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a search phrase that could help Maya find bus-idling counts from several pickup days at Pine Creek. Why is it more useful than "buses pollution"?

2. Could Vega's notes prove that eight buses idle at pickup every day? Explain using a limit of her source.

3. In your own words, correct this claim using the digital source: "A parked bus cannot produce exhaust." Add a parenthetical citation.

4. Why is "The Bus Cure" weak evidence for its claim about breathing problems? Name one credibility problem and one kind of evidence it lacks.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose Pine Creek puts up engine-off signs and wants to know whether bus behavior changes. Write three or four sentences that state a research question, give two specific search phrases for different kinds of sources, explain what counts you would compare, and describe one way to check a digital source's credibility. Do not claim that the signs work yet.

**ANSWER KEY**

# The Pickup Claim

**GRADES 6-8 · 6-8.WHST.8**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two source titles, circle the parenthetical citation, and number three clues that help you judge whether a claim is trustworthy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Write a search phrase that could help Maya find bus-idling counts from several pickup days at Pine Creek. Why is it more useful than "buses pollution"? | **For example, "Pine Creek school bus idling counts pickup week." It names the school, the behavior, and the time period instead of a broad topic.** |
| 2 | Could Vega's notes prove that eight buses idle at pickup every day? Explain using a limit of her source. | **No. Vega counted buses at 3:00 p.m. on only one afternoon, so her notes do not establish a daily pattern.** |
| 3 | In your own words, correct this claim using the digital source: "A parked bus cannot produce exhaust." Add a parenthetical citation. | **A bus can produce exhaust while it is parked if its engine is running (River County Air Office).** |
| 4 | Why is "The Bus Cure" weak evidence for its claim about breathing problems? Name one credibility problem and one kind of evidence it lacks. | **The post has no named author or sources. It also provides no health measurements to support its claim about students' breathing problems.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Did engine-off signs change how many Pine Creek buses idle at pickup? I would search "Pine Creek bus idle counts before after signs" for school records and "government school bus idling signs" for digital guidance. I would compare counts taken at the same pickup time on several days before and after the signs went up. I would check whether the digital source names its author and explains where its evidence came from.

Accept other focused search phrases and accurate paraphrases with the River County Air Office citation. For Your Turn, look for two distinct search purposes and a fair before-and-after comparison, not a claim that the signs succeeded.