Evidence Under Cover

Decide which details belong in an argument.

8.RI.8.c "Recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that help support the request for a bike-rack cover, and circle details offered as support that do not help show why the cover is needed.

A Roof for the Bike Racks

1 Students at Cedar Creek Middle School want a roof over the outdoor bike racks. On rainy days, they sometimes return to wet seats and handlebars. A simple cover could block much of the rain, although wind might still blow water beneath it. The racks sit outside all day, so bikes can stay wet until dismissal. Supporters also point out that the town museum displayed a bicycle with a large front wheel, and the exhibit attracted many visitors. The student council plans to bring its request to the principal.

2 The students also argue that a cover could help protect bikes from weather over time. Rain can cause exposed metal parts to rust, especially when riders do not dry their bikes afterward. The school's current racks have room for thirty bicycles, and students say most spaces fill on clear days. A covered rack would protect the bicycles already parked there, but it would not create more parking spaces. During last year's field day, the school's cycling club sold more lemonade than any other club. Club members hope that success will help persuade the principal.

3 Before deciding, the principal would need to compare the price of a cover with the school's available funds. The council suggests getting quotes for a roof that fits the existing racks, then checking whether it would block the walkway. Those steps address cost and access, not just rainy rides. The school's basketball team wore bright green uniforms at its last home game, and several students cheered for them. Council members say the school should show the same spirit by approving the bike-rack cover this spring.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail in paragraph 1 does not help support the request for a cover? Explain why.

2. Why do the cycling club's lemonade sales in paragraph 2 fail to support the request?

3. Which detail in paragraph 3 should the council leave out of its argument? Explain your choice.

4. A classmate says the full racks on clear days are irrelevant because it is not raining. How could that detail still help the argument, unlike the museum exhibit?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school improvement other than a bike-rack cover. Write four sentences: state your claim, give one relevant detail, add one irrelevant detail someone might offer as support, and explain why that last detail does not support your claim.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Under Cover

GRADE 8 · 8.RI.8.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details that help support the request for a bike-rack cover, and circle details offered as support that do not help show why the cover is needed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail in paragraph 1 does not help support the request for a cover? Explain why.	**The museum's bicycle exhibit and its visitors do not show that the school needs a cover for its racks.**
2	Why do the cycling club's lemonade sales in paragraph 2 fail to support the request?	**Lemonade sales do not show whether a cover would protect parked bikes or whether the school needs one.**
3	Which detail in paragraph 3 should the council leave out of its argument? Explain your choice.	**The basketball team's green uniforms and cheering fans do not provide a reason to approve a bike-rack cover.**
4	A classmate says the full racks on clear days are irrelevant because it is not raining. How could that detail still help the argument, unlike the museum exhibit?	**Full racks on clear days show that students regularly use them, so a cover could serve many bikes. The museum exhibit says nothing about use of the school's racks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should add a shaded bench near the pickup area. Students waiting for rides stand in direct sunlight on hot afternoons. The school's chess club won a tournament last month. That win does not show whether students need shade while they wait.

Accept explanations that connect a detail to the need for, use of, or practical decision about a cover. For Part 3, the irrelevant detail must be presented as possible support, then clearly rejected.