

Spot the Spin

Examine claims that use faulty reasoning.

6.12.H.ii "faulty reasoning such as hyperbole, emotional appeals, and stereotype;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a claim that seems exaggerated, circle words or details meant to stir feelings, and box a broad statement about a group. Write H, E, or S in the margin beside each mark.

Messages About Harbor Park

- ① At Monday's town meeting, students received a flyer from the group Keep Harbor Park Open. The flyer asks voters to oppose a plan to replace an old ball field with a library branch. It states, "Closing the field would be the worst decision in our town's history." The flyer also says the new library would offer homework help, computers, and meeting rooms. City plans show that the proposed building would use the field and a nearby empty lot.
- ② A second campaign message is a one-minute video shown online. In the video, a child holds a dusty baseball glove and says, "Do not take away the place where our memories live." Soft piano music plays while photos show teams celebrating after games. Near the end, an adult speaker says the field has served local families for decades. The screen then shows the date of a public vote and the words, "Protect what matters." The video ends with the group's logo.
- ③ A third message appears in a comment below the video. It says, "People who want the library do not care about sports or neighborhood traditions. They only want quiet buildings and rules." The comment was posted by an account called FieldFan22. Other comments discuss parking, reading programs, and the need for safe places to gather after school. The city council plans to hear public comments before voting on the project next month. Council members have not announced a final decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Copy the flyer claim that uses hyperbole. Which words make the claim exaggerated?

2 How does the statement about city plans differ from the flyer’s “worst decision” claim?

3 Name two details from the video that appeal to feelings instead of giving evidence about the library plan.

4 What stereotype does the comment make about people who want the library? Explain why it is a stereotype.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a two-sentence message about a school change. In the first sentence, use hyperbole, an emotional appeal, or a stereotype. In the second sentence, rewrite the idea as a fair claim with one specific piece of evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a claim that seems exaggerated, circle words or details meant to stir feelings, and box a broad statement about a group. Write H, E, or S in the margin beside each mark. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the flyer claim that uses hyperbole. Which words make the claim exaggerated?	"Closing the field would be the worst decision in our town's history." The words "worst decision" and "in our town's history" make it exaggerated.
2	How does the statement about city plans differ from the flyer's "worst decision" claim?	The city-plan statement gives a detail that can be checked, that the building would use the field and an empty lot. "Worst decision" is a broad opinion and exaggeration.
3	Name two details from the video that appeal to feelings instead of giving evidence about the library plan.	Answers may include the child with a dusty baseball glove, the words about memories, soft piano music, photos of celebrating teams, or "Protect what matters."
4	What stereotype does the comment make about people who want the library? Explain why it is a stereotype.	It says library supporters do not care about sports or traditions and only want quiet buildings and rules. It treats all people in the group as if they think and care about the same things.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Canceling the art club would be the most terrible mistake our school has ever made. In a survey of 120 students, 68 said they want the art club, so the school should consider keeping it.

Accept equivalent quotations and explanations that correctly identify exaggeration, emotional appeals, or stereotypes. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with one clear faulty technique followed by a fairer, evidence-based revision.