

Trust the Claim

Analyze sources, evidence, and persuasive language.

7.12.H “examine sources for: reliability, credibility, and bias; and faulty reasoning such as hyperbole, emotional appeals, and stereotype;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that helps you judge a source’s reliability or credibility. Circle each phrase that shows bias, hyperbole, an emotional appeal, or a stereotype, then number the three sources 1, 2, and 3.

Later Library Hours

- ① At a town council meeting, students discussed keeping the public library open until 8:00 p.m. on weekdays. Maya quoted a report from the State Library Agency. The report listed attendance records from 42 libraries over three years and explained how evening hours affected visits. Maya said the report found that libraries with added evening hours often had more teen visitors. Because the agency collected records from many libraries and described its methods, its evidence can be checked. Still, the report did not prove that later hours alone caused every increase.
- ② Then Mr. Bell, who owns a cafe near the library, handed out a flyer. It claimed, “Closing early destroys our town’s future. Every family will suffer if leaders ignore us.” The flyer gave no author, date, survey, or link to evidence. It used frightening language and broad statements instead of facts that readers could verify. Mr. Bell may benefit if more people visit nearby businesses, so his point of view could shape the claim. That does not automatically make his idea false, but readers need stronger evidence.
- ③ Finally, Councilmember Ortiz read comments from an online poll posted by a neighborhood group. One comment said, “Teenagers are always noisy and careless, so they should not be in the library at night.” The comment made a broad judgment about a whole group without evidence about individual people. The poll also allowed people to vote more than once, and it did not show how many respondents lived in town. Those limits make the poll less reliable for deciding policy. A decision would compare several sources, including verified attendance data and local surveys with clear methods.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which source in the passage is the most reliable? Give two details that support your answer.

2 Why is Mr. Bell's flyer less credible, and what possible bias could affect his claim?

3 Quote one example of hyperbole from the flyer. How does that language try to affect readers?

4 What stereotype appears in the online comment? Give two reasons the online poll is not fully reliable.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that your school is deciding whether to add a music room. Write three sentences that name one source you would trust and why, then describe one weak source or claim to question. Include a possible bias, hyperbole, an emotional appeal, or a stereotype.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that helps you judge a source's reliability or credibility. Circle each phrase that shows bias, hyperbole, an emotional appeal, or a stereotype, then number the three sources 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source in the passage is the most reliable? Give two details that support your answer.	The State Library Agency report is the most reliable. It used attendance records from 42 libraries over three years and described its methods.
2	Why is Mr. Bell's flyer less credible, and what possible bias could affect his claim?	The flyer has no author, date, survey, or evidence link. Mr. Bell may be biased because later library hours could bring more people to businesses near his cafe.
3	Quote one example of hyperbole from the flyer. How does that language try to affect readers?	"Every family will suffer" is hyperbole. It tries to frighten readers and make them feel worried about closing early.
4	What stereotype appears in the online comment? Give two reasons the online poll is not fully reliable.	The comment stereotypes teenagers as always noisy and careless. The poll allowed multiple votes from one person and did not show how many respondents lived in town.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would trust a district budget report that names its author and shows the costs of adding a music room. An anonymous post from students who want more rehearsal space could be biased because they would benefit. Its claim, "Without a music room, school will be unbearable for everyone," uses hyperbole and an emotional appeal.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that accurately distinguish reliability, credibility, bias, and faulty reasoning. For Part 3, accept varied sources and claims if the student explains why evidence is trustworthy or weak and correctly identifies a possible bias or faulty reasoning.