

Trust Check

Compare evidence, perspective, and what a source leaves out.

8.12.H.i “reliability, credibility, and bias, including omission; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that make a source credible or reliable, circle biased or loaded language, and number each omission so you can judge the claims.

A Bike Lane Debate

- ① In the fictional city of Riverton, the City Council is considering a 1.8-mile protected bike lane on Maple Avenue. A fact sheet on the city website, dated March 4, lists the proposed route, an estimated cost of \$2.4 million, and traffic-count data collected in October. It names the Transportation Planning Department and links to the counting method. The sheet says protected lanes can reduce crashes, citing a state transportation report. However, it does not explain whether Maple Avenue's businesses would lose parking spaces during construction.
- ② Across town, the Maple Avenue Restaurant Association posted a flyer titled “Save Our Street.” It states that the bike lane will “destroy local jobs” and includes a quotation from one restaurant owner who fears fewer customers. The flyer gives no author, date, traffic study, or survey of other businesses. Its large red headline and absolute language show a strong point of view. It also leaves out the city’s crash information, the project cost, and any possible benefits for people who walk or bike.
- ③ A local newspaper article reports on a public meeting about the plan. The reporter names the meeting date, quotes a city engineer, a restaurant owner, and a high school student who bikes to school. The article links to the city fact sheet and explains that the council has not yet voted. Unlike the flyer, it describes both parking concerns and safety goals. Still, the article does not include a viewpoint from a bus rider or a person with a disability, groups that may use Maple Avenue differently. Compare sources before deciding which claims deserve trust.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two details that make the city fact sheet more credible or reliable than the flyer.

2 What words in the restaurant association flyer show bias? Explain what those words suggest about the flyer's point of view.

3 What important information does the flyer omit? How could that omission affect a reader's judgment?

4 Which source gives the most balanced view of the proposal? Give two details from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a different school or community proposal. Write exactly three sentences that name a source you would check, describe evidence or perspectives you would compare, and identify one possible omission to watch for.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that make a source credible or reliable, circle biased or loaded language, and number each omission so you can judge the claims. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two details that make the city fact sheet more credible or reliable than the flyer.	Any two: it has a date, names the Transportation Planning Department, includes traffic-count data, links to its counting method, and cites a state transportation report.
2	What words in the restaurant association flyer show bias? Explain what those words suggest about the flyer's point of view.	"Destroy local jobs" shows bias. The absolute, alarming wording suggests the flyer strongly opposes the bike lane.
3	What important information does the flyer omit? How could that omission affect a reader's judgment?	It omits crash information, project cost, and possible benefits for walkers and cyclists. Leaving out these details makes the flyer one-sided and harder to evaluate fairly.
4	Which source gives the most balanced view of the proposal? Give two details from the passage to support your answer.	The local newspaper article. It includes views from a city engineer, restaurant owner, and student, and it explains both parking concerns and safety goals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

For a proposed later school start time, I would begin with a district report that names its authors, date, and sleep research. I would compare it with student, family, and bus-driver views because each group may emphasize different effects. I would check whether the report leaves out transportation costs or students who have after-school jobs.

Accept equivalent evidence of credibility, bias, and omission when students support their answers with passage details. For the open task, accept varied proposals if all three sentences address source quality, comparison of evidence or perspectives, and a possible omission.