

Three Views, One Event

Compare what primary and secondary sources can tell you.

3.14.B “differentiate and compare the information about a specific issue or event provided in primary and secondary sources;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three sources 1, 2, and 3, then circle words that show who made each source and underline one kind of information each source gives.

The Greensboro Sit-In

- ① In 1960, four Black college students sat at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. The counter served only white customers. The students asked for food but were not served. A newspaper reporter wrote that the students stayed calm and remained in their seats until the store closed. This newspaper story was made at the time of the event.
- ② One of the students, Franklin McCain, later gave a recorded interview about that day. He said the group wanted to challenge unfair rules without fighting. He remembered feeling nervous when they first sat down. His interview is a primary source because McCain took part in the event. It shares his feelings and reasons, which the newspaper story does not give.
- ③ A history book published many years later explains that the Greensboro sit-in helped spark similar protests in other cities. The book uses information from many sources, including reports and interviews. It calls the event an important part of the Civil Rights Movement. This is a secondary source because its author studied the event after it happened, rather than taking part.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

How was the newspaper reporter different from Franklin McCain?

2

What information does McCain's interview give that the newspaper story does not give?

3

Which source is a secondary source? Explain why.

4

How is the information in the history book different from the information in the newspaper story?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the chart to compare all three sources. In the last column, tell how each source differs from one other source in the passage.

SOURCE	PRIMARY OR SECONDARY?	INFORMATION IT GIVES	HOW IT DIFFERS

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the three sources 1, 2, and 3, then circle words that show who made each source and underline one kind of information each source gives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was the newspaper reporter different from Franklin McCain?	The reporter wrote about the event, while Franklin McCain was one of the students who took part in it.
2	What information does McCain's interview give that the newspaper story does not give?	It gives McCain's feelings and the group's reasons for acting, including that he felt nervous and wanted to challenge unfair rules without fighting.
3	Which source is a secondary source? Explain why.	The history book is a secondary source because its author studied the event many years after it happened instead of taking part.
4	How is the information in the history book different from the information in the newspaper story?	The history book explains the larger effect of the sit-in, including similar protests in other cities. The newspaper story describes what the students did at the lunch counter that day.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

SOURCE	PRIMARY OR SECONDARY?	INFORMATION IT GIVES	HOW IT DIFFERS
Newspaper story	Primary	It tells what the students did at the lunch counter.	Unlike McCain's interview, it does not give a student's feelings.
McCain's interview	Primary	It gives his feelings and reasons for joining the sit-in.	Unlike the newspaper story, it comes from a person who took part.
History book	Secondary	It explains that the sit-in sparked protests in other cities.	Unlike the newspaper story, it was written many years later.

Accept equivalent comparisons that correctly identify who created each source, when it was made, or the kind of information it provides. The newspaper story and McCain interview are primary sources, while the history book is a secondary source.