

Claim Detective

Find the main point in a secondary history source.

4.19.F “identify the central claim in a primary or secondary source; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the one sentence that states the author’s main point. Circle two details that support it, so you can tell the central claim from evidence.

A Historian’s Account of the Bus Boycott

- ① This secondary source explains why the Montgomery Bus Boycott mattered. In 1955, Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, faced rules that forced them to sit in separate bus sections. After Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a White passenger, local leaders asked Black riders not to use city buses. The boycott began on December 5.
- ② The boycott showed that organized, nonviolent community action could challenge unfair segregation. For more than a year, many people walked, shared rides, or used carpools instead of riding buses. The Montgomery Improvement Association helped arrange carpools, and churches helped share information. These choices cost people time and effort, but they kept pressure on the bus company and city leaders.
- ③ In 1956, a federal court decision in *Browder v. Gayle* ruled that bus segregation in Alabama was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court upheld that decision, and Montgomery buses were desegregated in December. The court ruling was important, yet it came after thousands of residents had worked together for many months. Their shared action made the boycott a powerful challenge to segregation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the central claim of this source?

2 Which paragraph states the central claim most clearly? Explain how you know.

3 Write one detail that supports the central claim.

4 The source says that the court ruling came after thousands of residents worked together. Does this detail support the central claim or disagree with it? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence secondary-source mini-passage about how women's suffrage activists helped win voting rights. Underline your central claim in the first sentence, then give one accurate supporting detail in each of the next two sentences.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that states the author's main point. Circle two details that support it, so you can tell the central claim from evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the central claim of this source?	The boycott showed that organized, nonviolent community action could challenge unfair segregation.
2	Which paragraph states the central claim most clearly? Explain how you know.	Paragraph 2. Its first sentence gives the author's main point, while the other sentences give facts and examples.
3	Write one detail that supports the central claim.	Answers may include that people walked, shared rides, used carpools, churches shared information, or the boycott kept pressure on city leaders and the bus company.
4	The source says that the court ruling came after thousands of residents worked together. Does this detail support the central claim or disagree with it? Explain.	It supports the central claim because it shows that many residents worked together before bus segregation ended.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Women's suffrage activists helped win voting rights by organizing and speaking out for change. They held marches and meetings to tell people why women should vote. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment barred states from denying the right to vote based on sex.

Accept central claims that make a clear main point about activists helping win women's voting rights. Supporting details should be accurate and should explain or give evidence for the claim.