

Claim Hunt

Read a secondary source and identify its central claim.

5.23.G “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 central claim. Circle two details that best support that claim.

A Lesson From the Boycott

- ① During the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 and 1956, Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, chose not to ride city buses. The boycott began after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger. Many people walked, shared rides, or used carpools. Their actions challenged unfair rules that separated people by race.
- ② The boycott worked because thousands of residents cooperated for more than a year. Black taxi drivers charged low fares, and volunteers organized rides for workers. Churches collected money for gas and car repairs. The city tried to stop carpools, but the community continued. These shared efforts showed that ordinary people could use peaceful action to demand change.
- ③ The boycott’s most important lesson is that organized, peaceful cooperation can help people challenge unjust laws. In November 1956, the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Browder v. Gayle* ended bus segregation in Montgomery. The court victory mattered, but it grew from residents’ daily choices to walk, drive others, give money, and remain united together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What central claim does the author make about the Montgomery Bus Boycott?

2 Which paragraph states the central claim most directly? Copy the first sentence of that paragraph.

3 Name two actions from paragraph 2 that support the central claim. Explain how the actions show cooperation.

4 Why is Rosa Parks's arrest not the central claim of the passage? What role does it play?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence paragraph for a secondary source about a real group that worked together to solve a problem. Underline one sentence that gives your central claim, and use the other two sentences for details that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the one sentence that states the author's central claim. Circle two details that best support that claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What central claim does the author make about the Montgomery Bus Boycott?	Organized, peaceful cooperation can help people challenge unjust laws.
2	Which paragraph states the central claim most directly? Copy the first sentence of that paragraph.	Paragraph 3. "The boycott's most important lesson is that organized, peaceful cooperation can help people challenge unjust laws."
3	Name two actions from paragraph 2 that support the central claim. Explain how the actions show cooperation.	Answers may include low-fare taxis, organized rides, church collections for gas and repairs, or continuing carpools. These actions show people working together to support the boycott.
4	Why is Rosa Parks's arrest not the central claim of the passage? What role does it play?	It explains how the boycott began. It is background information, not the author's main lesson about organized cooperation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Workers can gain attention for unfair conditions when they organize together. During the 1912 Lawrence textile strike, thousands of workers stopped working after their wages were cut. Their marches and public support helped pressure mill owners to agree to better pay.

Accept clear central claims that make a main point about the group's actions, rather than merely naming an event. Supporting sentences should give details that connect to and strengthen the underlined claim.