

Riding for Rights

Track main ideas and the details that make them clear.

5.25.B “incorporate main and supporting ideas in verbal and written communication;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Number two supporting details in each paragraph that help explain or prove its main idea.

The Freedom Rides

- ① In 1961, Freedom Riders tested whether the South would follow federal rules against segregation in interstate travel. Black and white volunteers rode buses together and used terminals that were supposed to serve all travelers. Their trips showed that a court decision alone did not always change what happened in bus stations. The riders used nonviolent action to call attention to this problem.
- ② Some riders faced danger because many local officials and white residents opposed integrated travel. On May 14, 1961, a mob attacked a Freedom Riders bus near Anniston, Alabama, and set it on fire after the riders escaped. In Birmingham, Alabama, other riders were beaten. Even after these attacks, new volunteers continued the rides, showing their commitment to equal treatment.
- ③ The Freedom Rides pushed the federal government to act more strongly. In September 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued rules that banned segregation in interstate bus travel and in bus terminals. The rules took effect that November. The riders did not end all discrimination, but their actions helped enforce travel rights and became an important part of the civil rights movement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Give two details that support it.

2 How does the detail about the attack near Anniston support the main idea of paragraph 2?

3 What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Name two facts you should include to support that idea in a written summary.

4 A classmate says, "The Freedom Riders ended all discrimination." Use two ideas from the passage to correct this statement.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a social studies topic you have learned. Write three sentences you could say to the class: state one main idea, then include two details that support it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the main idea in each paragraph. Number two supporting details in each paragraph that help explain or prove its main idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main idea of paragraph 1? Give two details that support it.	Main idea: Freedom Riders used nonviolent bus trips to challenge segregation in interstate travel. Supporting details include that Black and white volunteers rode together and used terminals meant for all travelers, and the trips showed that court decisions were not always followed.
2	How does the detail about the attack near Anniston support the main idea of paragraph 2?	It shows that riders faced real danger because some people opposed integrated travel.
3	What is the main idea of paragraph 3? Name two facts you should include to support that idea in a written summary.	Main idea: The Freedom Rides pushed the federal government to enforce travel rights more strongly. Supporting facts: the Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation in interstate buses and terminals, and the rules took effect in November 1961.
4	A classmate says, "The Freedom Riders ended all discrimination." Use two ideas from the passage to correct this statement.	The Freedom Riders did not end all discrimination. Their actions helped enforce travel rights, and federal rules banned segregation in interstate buses and terminals.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Erie Canal changed travel and trade in New York. Completed in 1825, it connected the Hudson River to Lake Erie. The canal moved goods more cheaply and helped towns along its route grow.

Accept equivalent main ideas and supporting details that are accurate and clearly connected. For the open response, check that the student states one clear main idea and includes at least two relevant supporting details.