

Voices for Parks

Use research and experience to prepare a clear spoken idea.

6.21.C “express ideas orally based on research and experiences;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each researched fact, circle each detail from the speaker's experience, and number the speaking moves in paragraph 3. These marks will help you notice how a speaker builds an idea for an audience.

Why Protected Places Matter

- ① Good afternoon. I think national parks matter because they protect places that belong to all Americans. My research began with the National Park Service website. It explains that Yellowstone became the first national park in the United States on March 1, 1872. That decision protected geysers, wildlife, and land from private development. This history shows that people can use government to care for natural and cultural places over many years as a shared public responsibility.
- ② Research also shows that parks preserve history, not only scenery. The National Park Service manages more than 400 sites, including battlefields, historic homes, and places connected to civil rights. For example, the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail remembers the 1965 voting rights marches in Alabama. When I visited a local history museum last summer, I read letters written by families during World War II. Seeing real objects made the past feel closer than it did in a textbook.
- ③ These facts and my experience lead me to one idea: visiting and supporting parks helps communities remember their shared story. I would tell my audience where I found my information, then speak clearly and look up instead of reading every word. I would begin with Yellowstone, add the Selma trail example, and connect both to my museum visit. I would end by asking listeners to learn about one protected place near them and explain why its story should be remembered.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What main idea would the speaker want the audience to remember? State it in your own words.

2 Choose one researched fact from the passage that would support the speaker's idea in a short talk. Explain how the fact supports the idea.

3 What experience does the speaker include, and how does it make the spoken idea stronger?

4 What two actions does the speaker plan to use so the audience can follow the talk instead of hearing someone read every word?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Prepare and deliver a 45-second talk explaining why protected places matter. Write exactly five sentences: state a claim, use one researched fact from this passage and name its source, explain the fact, add one of your own experiences learning from a place, object, or story, and end with a clear closing idea.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each researched fact, circle each detail from the speaker's experience, and number the speaking moves in paragraph 3. These marks will help you notice how a speaker builds an idea for an audience. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What main idea would the speaker want the audience to remember? State it in your own words.	Protected places, including national parks, help communities remember shared natural and historical stories.
2	Choose one researched fact from the passage that would support the speaker's idea in a short talk. Explain how the fact supports the idea.	Answers may use Yellowstone becoming the first U.S. national park in 1872, the National Park Service managing more than 400 sites, or the Selma trail remembering the 1965 voting rights marches, with a correct explanation that the fact shows public protection preserves important places or history.
3	What experience does the speaker include, and how does it make the spoken idea stronger?	The speaker visited a local history museum and read World War II letters. The experience makes the idea stronger by showing personally that real objects can make history feel close and meaningful.
4	What two actions does the speaker plan to use so the audience can follow the talk instead of hearing someone read every word?	The speaker plans to speak clearly and look up at the audience instead of reading every word.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Protected places matter because they help communities remember important stories. The National Park Service says Yellowstone became the first United States national park in 1872, so people chose to protect land for everyone. The agency also manages sites connected to civil rights, including the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. At a museum, I saw an old tool that made local history feel real to me. We should learn about and support protected places because their stories can teach us today.

Accept clear oral-talk plans that use an accurate fact from the passage, identify the National Park Service as the source, and connect that fact to the student's claim. The student should rehearse and deliver the five-sentence talk aloud, using a clear voice and eye contact when possible.