

Talk It Through

Use respectful language to discuss a community decision with more than one viewpoint.

6.21.F “apply foundational language skills to engage in civil discourse about social studies topics, including those with multiple perspectives.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each speaker’s claim, circle the evidence or reason that supports it, and number the words or sentences that keep the discussion respectful.

A Trail Debate

- ① At a public meeting in Riverton, the council discussed an unused rail corridor. Maya Ortiz, a student representative, said, “I support making the corridor a walking and biking trail. Families could reach the library and park without crossing busy streets.” She cited a town traffic count showing that 620 cars passed the nearby intersection during one afternoon. Maya added, “I understand that some residents worry about cost, and I would like to hear ideas about paying for the project.”
- ② Mr. Lee, who owns a hardware store near the corridor, offered a different view. “I agree that safer routes matter,” he said, “but I oppose beginning construction before the council identifies stable funding.” He explained that his delivery trucks use the service road beside the tracks. Closing it could delay deliveries, he said. Rather than calling Maya’s idea careless, Mr. Lee asked, “Could the trail plan keep a route open for local businesses during the work?”
- ③ Council chair Amina Shah thanked both speakers and summarized their points before inviting comments. She said that Maya wanted safer travel options and that Mr. Lee needed reliable access for deliveries. Then she asked the group to consider a possible compromise: build the trail in sections while keeping the service road open at first. The council did not vote that night. Instead, members requested cost estimates and planned another meeting after residents could review them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is Maya's claim about the rail corridor? State it in your own words.

2 What evidence does Maya use to support her claim?

3 Copy one phrase Mr. Lee uses to recognize Maya's concern before sharing his own position.

4 What two needs does Chair Shah include in her summary, and how does naming both needs support a civil discussion?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a community decision that people could view differently. Write five sentences that state your claim and reason, recognize another viewpoint respectfully, and ask a question or suggest a compromise.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each speaker's claim, circle the evidence or reason that supports it, and number the words or sentences that keep the discussion respectful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Maya's claim about the rail corridor? State it in your own words.	Maya supports turning the unused rail corridor into a walking and biking trail.
2	What evidence does Maya use to support her claim?	She cites a traffic count showing that 620 cars passed the nearby intersection during one afternoon.
3	Copy one phrase Mr. Lee uses to recognize Maya's concern before sharing his own position.	"I agree that safer routes matter."
4	What two needs does Chair Shah include in her summary, and how does naming both needs support a civil discussion?	She names Maya's need for safer travel options and Mr. Lee's need for reliable delivery access. Naming both shows that each viewpoint has been heard and helps the group consider a compromise.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town council is considering whether to hold one meeting each month in the evening. I support an evening meeting because people who work during the day could attend. I understand that some residents may need to travel after dark. Could the council provide an online comment form and test the new time for three months? Then members could compare attendance before deciding.

Accept equivalent statements of the claims, evidence, and respectful language from the passage. For Part 3, accept a clear civic topic with a claim, a reason, respectful acknowledgment of another perspective, and a civil question or compromise.