

Listening Across History

Use claims, evidence, and respectful questions in a public-history discussion.

7.22.D “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 claim, circle each piece of evidence, and number each respectful phrase or question that recognizes another view. These moves show how speakers can disagree about history without attacking people.

A Statue Debate

- ① At a city council meeting, residents discussed whether a statue in the town square should remain. Maya said, “I believe the statue should be moved to the local history museum. It honors a Confederate general, and many residents feel hurt when they see it.” She added that museum exhibits could explain the general’s role in the Civil War and the history of segregation. Maya spoke about the statue, not about the character of people who disagreed with her.
- ② Jordan responded, “I understand why the statue causes pain. I see its history differently, though. I think it should stay with a new plaque that tells the full story, including slavery and the general’s actions.” Jordan cited a nearby city that added detailed signs and held community discussions before changing its monument policy. He asked Maya, “What information would a museum display include?” His question invited her to explain her idea instead of treating her view as foolish.
- ③ The council chair said that the decision would affect public space and local memory. She summarized both ideas before asking the group to examine records, listen to descendants, and consider costs. The council later scheduled a museum visit and a meeting with historians. No final decision was made that night. The discussion showed that civil discourse does not require everyone to agree. It requires people to state claims clearly, use relevant evidence, recognize another perspective, and respond with respectful words and questions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is Maya's claim, and what reason does she give for it?

2 What evidence does Jordan cite to support his idea? Explain how it relates to the monument discussion.

3 Copy one phrase Jordan uses to recognize Maya's perspective. How does the phrase help keep the discussion civil?

4 What question does Jordan ask Maya? Why is that a respectful response to someone with a different claim?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a public issue from history or your community that has more than one perspective. Write four sentences: state a claim, give a relevant fact or source, recognize a different view fairly, and ask a respectful question.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each claim, circle each piece of evidence, and number each respectful phrase or question that recognizes another view. These moves show how speakers can disagree about history without attacking people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is Maya's claim, and what reason does she give for it?	Maya claims that the statue should be moved to the local history museum. She says it honors a Confederate general and that many residents feel hurt when they see it.
2	What evidence does Jordan cite to support his idea? Explain how it relates to the monument discussion.	Jordan cites a nearby city that added detailed signs and held community discussions before changing its monument policy. This example supports using information and discussion to give a monument fuller context.
3	Copy one phrase Jordan uses to recognize Maya's perspective. How does the phrase help keep the discussion civil?	"I understand why the statue causes pain" or "I see its history differently, though." The phrase acknowledges Maya's view without insulting or dismissing it.
4	What question does Jordan ask Maya? Why is that a respectful response to someone with a different claim?	He asks, "What information would a museum display include?" It invites Maya to explain her idea rather than calling it foolish.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think our city should add Indigenous Peoples' Day to its calendar. The National Congress of American Indians supports the day as a way to honor Native peoples. Some residents may want to keep Columbus Day because it recognizes Italian American heritage. How could the city recognize both histories respectfully?

Accept different claims when the student includes all four required parts and uses respectful language. The fact or source should relate to the claim, and the other perspective must be represented fairly.