

Evidence Makes Change

Build a historical claim with evidence and reasoning.

8.29.E “formulate and communicate visually, orally, or in writing a claim supported by evidence and reasoning related to a social studies topic;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim, circle at least two evidence details, and number the sentences that explain how the evidence supports a claim.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

- ① In 1955, many Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, refused to ride city buses after Rosa Parks was arrested for violating the bus seating law. The Montgomery Improvement Association organized carpools, meetings, and fundraising during the boycott. The protest lasted more than a year. In December 1956, the United States Supreme Court decision in *Browder v. Gayle* took effect, ending legally required segregation on Montgomery buses. This event offers evidence that organized community action can challenge unfair local laws.
- ② Boycott leaders did not depend on a single action. Volunteers drove people to work, schools, and stores, while churches shared information at mass meetings. Many participants walked long distances rather than pay bus fares. The boycott gained national attention, and local officials faced continuing pressure to respond. These details show planning, sacrifice, and cooperation. They support the idea that a sustained protest can make a problem difficult for leaders to ignore, even when participants have limited political power.
- ③ Some people may argue that the Supreme Court decision alone ended segregation on the buses. The ruling was essential because it made the end of segregation legally enforceable, but the boycott also mattered. For over a year, residents kept public attention on the injustice and showed how strongly they opposed it. Their organized actions created pressure before the ruling took effect. Therefore, a well-supported claim is that court decisions and community action can work together to change unfair policies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What claim does the final paragraph make about changing unfair policies?

2 Give two details from the passage that support the idea that the boycott was organized and sustained.

3 How does the passage explain the connection between the boycott and pressure on local leaders?

4 Why does the author say that the Supreme Court ruling was essential but that the boycott also mattered?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a social studies topic you have studied. Write five sentences that state a claim, give two accurate facts as evidence, and explain how the facts support your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each claim, circle at least two evidence details, and number the sentences that explain how the evidence supports a claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What claim does the final paragraph make about changing unfair policies?	Court decisions and community action can work together to change unfair policies.
2	Give two details from the passage that support the idea that the boycott was organized and sustained.	Answers may include that the association organized carpools, meetings, and fundraising; volunteers drove people; churches shared information; and many participants walked long distances rather than pay bus fares.
3	How does the passage explain the connection between the boycott and pressure on local leaders?	The organized boycott lasted over a year, gained national attention, and made the problem difficult for local officials to ignore.
4	Why does the author say that the Supreme Court ruling was essential but that the boycott also mattered?	The ruling made the end of segregation legally enforceable, while the boycott kept attention on the injustice and created pressure before the ruling took effect.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The New Deal changed the federal government's role in responding to economic crisis. During the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps hired young men for conservation projects. The Social Security Act created retirement benefits and unemployment insurance. These programs used federal action to provide jobs and financial support. Therefore, the New Deal showed that national policies could directly affect Americans' economic security.

Accept a claim that is clear and connected to a social studies topic, two accurate and relevant facts, and reasoning that explicitly links the facts to the claim. Wording may vary.