

Claims Under the Lens

Evaluate evidence, perspective, and accuracy across sources.

8.29.F "evaluate a variety of historical and contemporary sources for validity, credibility, bias, and accuracy;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim about the Boston Massacre, circle clues about a source's author or purpose, and number facts that could be checked against another source. These marks will help you judge credibility, bias, validity, and accuracy.

Reading the Boston Massacre Sources

- ① In March 1770, a clash between British soldiers and colonists in Boston left five colonists dead. People soon called it the Boston Massacre, but that name itself shows a point of view. An engraving by Paul Revere pictured soldiers firing in an orderly line at unarmed townspeople. Revere was a Patriot supporter and sold copies after the event. His image is a primary source because it was made at the time, yet being close in time does not automatically make every detail accurate.
- ② To test Revere's account, historians compare it with other evidence. Captain Thomas Preston, the British officer present, wrote that a crowd threw snowballs and clubs and that soldiers fired after confusion. Preston had reason to defend himself and his men, so his account may contain bias. Testimony at the soldiers' trial came from witnesses with different loyalties. Some witnesses reported that colonists threw objects, while others disagreed about who shouted first. Agreement across independent sources can strengthen a claim, but disagreement signals that a reader should investigate further.
- ③ Source evaluation also applies to modern posts about the event. A post that says every colonist was unarmed repeats Revere's message but ignores conflicting trial testimony. A reliable account identifies its author, date, evidence, and purpose. It separates facts from interpretation and links readers to sources they can examine. For example, court records show that six soldiers were acquitted and two were convicted of manslaughter. Checking such records against a post can reveal whether its claims are accurate and whether its evidence supports them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What detail about Paul Revere suggests that his engraving may show bias?

2 Why should a reader avoid using only Captain Preston's account to explain the event?

3 What claim is supported by both Preston's account and some trial testimony?

4 Name two features a reliable modern account should include, and explain how court records can help evaluate it.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A 2025 unsigned post says, "All eight soldiers were found innocent because no witness disagreed with them." It gives no links. Write 80 to 110 words evaluating the post's credibility, bias, validity, and accuracy. Use evidence from the passage and explain one source you would check.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each claim about the Boston Massacre, circle clues about a source's author or purpose, and number facts that could be checked against another source. These marks will help you judge credibility, bias, validity, and accuracy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What detail about Paul Revere suggests that his engraving may show bias?	Revere supported the Patriots and sold copies of the engraving after the event, so he had a reason to present the Patriots' view.
2	Why should a reader avoid using only Captain Preston's account to explain the event?	Preston had reason to defend himself and his soldiers, so his account may contain bias. It should be compared with other evidence.
3	What claim is supported by both Preston's account and some trial testimony?	Colonists or the crowd threw objects at the soldiers.
4	Name two features a reliable modern account should include, and explain how court records can help evaluate it.	A reliable account should identify its author, date, evidence, or purpose. Court records can be checked to see whether the account's claims, such as the trial results, are accurate.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The unsigned 2025 post is not very credible because readers cannot identify its author or examine its evidence. Its claim that all eight soldiers were found innocent is inaccurate. The court records described in the passage say that six soldiers were acquitted, while two were convicted of manslaughter. The post also says no witness disagreed with the soldiers, but trial testimony included different accounts of who shouted first. Because it has no evidence, its conclusion is not valid. Its wording may show bias because it presents one side as completely certain. I would check court records and trial testimony before trusting the post.

Accept equivalent explanations that distinguish a source's perspective from whether every factual claim is accurate. For the open task, accept 80 to 110 word responses that evaluate the post using passage evidence and name an appropriate source to verify its claims.