

Forum With Sources

Read how evidence, citations, and respectful language strengthen a public discussion.

8.30 "Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to: use social studies terminology correctly; use effective written communication skills..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sentences that state a position on the bike-lane proposal, circle the two parenthetical citations, write 1 beside Maya's question in paragraph 3, and write 2 beside Jordan's reply in paragraph 3 to mark two civil-discourse responses.

A Student Forum

- ① At a student forum, Maya spoke about a proposal to add protected bike lanes on Oak Street. "The city should add the lanes because safer routes can help more students bike to school," she said. Her claim named a policy and a reason. Maya then paraphrased, rather than copied, a transportation report: the report found that protected lanes reduce injury risk for cyclists (City Transportation Department 14). Her parenthetical citation identifies the source and page where readers can check the evidence.
- ② Jordan held a different position. "I agree that student safety matters, but the council should first study how removing parking spaces could affect nearby stores," he said. He supported this concern with a survey from the Oak Street Business Association. In the survey, 18 of 25 responding store owners expected fewer customers if parking decreased (Oak Street Business Association 3). By naming the group and page, Jordan showed readers where his evidence came from. He did not call Maya's idea foolish or ignore her safety reason.
- ③ After the forum, the students prepared a slide with the heading "Bike Lanes and Local Businesses." The slide used brief bullet points, a citation, and a source list. In the source list, they wrote: City Transportation Department. Safe Routes Report. 2025. They also listed the business survey. During discussion, Maya said, "What evidence would help us understand parking effects?" Jordan replied, "We may reach different conclusions, but we can examine more data together." Their language invited civil discourse, a respectful exchange of ideas supported by evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 State Maya’s claim and the evidence she uses to support it.

2 How did Maya avoid plagiarism when using the transportation report? What two pieces of information are inside her parenthetical citation?

3 Name two features the students used on their slide to communicate social studies information.

4 What words does Jordan use that show civil discourse? What action does he propose?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence public comment about a school or community proposal. State a claim in sentence 1, paraphrase evidence from a source and include a parenthetical citation in sentence 2, and respond respectfully to another view in sentence 3. Below your comment, write one complete source-list entry for the source you used.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two sentences that state a position on the bike-lane proposal, circle the two parenthetical citations, write 1 beside Maya's question in paragraph 3, and write 2 beside Jordan's reply in paragraph 3 to mark two civil-discourse responses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State Maya's claim and the evidence she uses to support it.	Maya claims that the city should add protected bike lanes. She supports her claim with a transportation report finding that protected lanes reduce injury risk for cyclists.
2	How did Maya avoid plagiarism when using the transportation report? What two pieces of information are inside her parenthetical citation?	She paraphrased the report instead of copying its words and gave a citation. The citation includes the source organization, City Transportation Department, and page 14.
3	Name two features the students used on their slide to communicate social studies information.	Any two: a heading, brief bullet points, a citation, or a source list.
4	What words does Jordan use that show civil discourse? What action does he propose?	He says, "We may reach different conclusions, but we can examine more data together." He proposes examining more data together.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our district should begin high school at 8:30 a.m. because teenagers need schedules that support sleep. The Adolescent Sleep Working Group recommends middle and high school start times of 8:30 a.m. or later, so a later opening could support student health (Adolescent Sleep Working Group 642). I understand that families may worry about transportation, and I would like the district to compare bus options before deciding. Adolescent Sleep Working Group, Committee on Adolescence, and Council on School Health. "School Start Times for Adolescents." *Pediatrics*, vol. 134, no. 3, 2014, pp. 642-649.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately identifies the passage's claim, evidence, citation details, slide features, and civil language. For the open response, check for an original claim, paraphrased and cited evidence, a respectful response to another view, and a complete source-list entry.