

Evidence Under Review

Evaluate claims, source features, and possible bias before using evidence.

12.C.3.B "Examine multimodal sources' claims, arguments, ideas, and any point of personal bias by evaluating them for reliability and relevance to serve as credible supporting evidence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each claim in the passage. Circle details that show a source's reliability or relevance, and number each possible source of personal bias.

A Case for Bike Lanes

- ① When Riverton considered adding protected bike lanes on two downtown streets, residents encountered several multimodal sources. A council video showed animated traffic maps and claimed the project would cut rush-hour car trips by 18 percent. Its narrator cited a 2023 transportation study, but the screen displayed neither the study's author nor method. A local cycling coalition reposted a colorful infographic with the same number and photographs of crowded bike racks. The infographic identified the council video as its only source, so its images may attract attention without adding independent evidence.
- ② The city transit agency's online dashboard offered a different kind of evidence. It used an interactive map and monthly charts to report bicycle counts from automatic counters on existing lanes. Users could select locations and download the data, and each chart named its collection dates. Because the agency operates transportation services, it may favor projects that increase cycling. Still, its transparent methods make the dashboard more reliable for checking current bike use than the coalition's repost. The dashboard cannot, by itself, prove how many drivers would change their commute.
- ③ An opinion column in the Riverton Daily argued that bike lanes would harm small businesses. Beside the article, a bar graph showed four stores reporting fewer deliveries during a six-week construction period. The columnist owns a parking garage near one proposed lane, a connection that may shape the argument. The graph is relevant to short-term construction effects, but four self-reported stores cannot establish citywide economic results. To decide whether the lanes would affect businesses over time, readers would need broader sales data and a source that explains how it collected the information.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the council video's missing study information affect its reliability as evidence for the 18 percent claim?

2 Why does the cycling coalition's infographic provide limited independent support for the bike-lane proposal?

3 What can the transit agency dashboard reliably help a reader check, and what important claim can it not prove by itself?

4 What possible bias should readers consider in the Riverton Daily column, and how should they use its bar graph?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a multimodal source you have examined, such as a video, infographic, podcast, or interactive post. In exactly 3 sentences and 60 to 85 words, identify one claim, describe one source feature or piece of evidence, assess its reliability and relevance, identify a possible bias, and state whether it is credible supporting evidence for a claim you name.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each claim in the passage. Circle details that show a source's reliability or relevance, and number each possible source of personal bias. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the council video's missing study information affect its reliability as evidence for the 18 percent claim?	The video does not show the study's author or method, so readers cannot judge how the 18 percent estimate was produced or how dependable it is.
2	Why does the cycling coalition's infographic provide limited independent support for the bike-lane proposal?	It repeats the council video's number and names that video as its only source. Its photographs add attention, not independent evidence.
3	What can the transit agency dashboard reliably help a reader check, and what important claim can it not prove by itself?	It can help check current bicycle use at existing lanes because it provides downloadable counts, locations, and dates. It cannot prove how many drivers would change their commute.
4	What possible bias should readers consider in the Riverton Daily column, and how should they use its bar graph?	The columnist owns a nearby parking garage and may have a personal interest in opposing a lane. The graph is relevant to short-term delivery effects, but it cannot support a citywide conclusion from four self-reported stores.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The National Hurricane Center's Hurricane Ian advisory map, created by a federal weather agency, claimed that parts of southwest Florida faced dangerous storm surge on September 28, 2022. Its color-coded forecast zones and posted advisory time make it reliable and relevant evidence for a claim that officials warned coastal residents before landfall. Because the agency's mission is public safety, it may emphasize risk, but it remains credible for documenting the warning, not for proving every resident evacuated.

Accept equivalent evaluations that cite specific passage details and distinguish a source's usefulness from the strength of its evidence. For Part 3, accept varied sources when the response meets the sentence and word requirements and makes a defensible reliability, relevance, and bias judgment.