# Bus Choice Debate

Analyze how two speakers build different cases about electric school buses.

**7.RI.3** "Integration of Concepts Analyze ideas within and between selections including how specific sentences, paragraphs, or sections contribute to the development and meaning of ideas..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one reason Ortiz gives and one reason Cho gives. In the margin, write O or C beside each underlined reason to show its author.

### Two Views on Electric Buses

1 Many school districts are replacing some diesel buses with electric buses. An electric bus uses a battery and motor instead of burning diesel fuel, so it produces no exhaust from a tailpipe while it travels. Districts must install chargers and plan when buses will recharge. In 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded funding to help districts purchase thousands of clean school buses, including electric models. The change has started conversations about what a bus should provide beyond a ride to school.

2 At a town meeting, parent Maya Ortiz supported buying electric buses. She described waiting near the school entrance during afternoon pickup, when several diesel buses idled in a line. "The air smelled like fuel, and the engines made it hard to hear my daughter," she said. Ortiz noted that children and drivers spend time near buses every day. She argued that quieter buses without tailpipe exhaust would make the area around the school more pleasant. Her comments asked the board to consider the people who use the bus zone.

3 Transportation consultant Daniel Cho urged the board to study the purchase carefully. He pointed out that electric buses can cost more to buy than diesel buses, and chargers may require electrical upgrades. Cho asked how many buses could charge overnight and whether a route would need a mid-day charge in cold weather, when batteries may provide less driving range. He also said electric buses can have lower fuel and maintenance costs because they have fewer moving parts. His remarks asked the board to compare costs and schedules before choosing a plan.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What role does paragraph 1 play in the passage? Use one fact from the paragraph in your answer.

2. How does Ortiz's quoted sentence about the air and engines contribute to her argument?

3. Why does Cho include the sentence about cold weather and battery range?

4. How do Ortiz and Cho emphasize different information when discussing electric buses?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence recommendation to the school board about electric buses. Use one detail from Ortiz and one detail from Cho, then explain which concern the board should address first and why.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Bus Choice Debate

**GRADE 7 · 7.RI.3**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason Ortiz gives and one reason Cho gives. In the margin, write O or C beside each underlined reason to show its author. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What role does paragraph 1 play in the passage? Use one fact from the paragraph in your answer. | **It provides background for the debate about electric buses. For example, it explains that electric buses have no tailpipe exhaust but need chargers and recharge plans.** |
| 2 | How does Ortiz's quoted sentence about the air and engines contribute to her argument? | **It gives a concrete, firsthand example of unpleasant conditions near idling diesel buses, supporting her case for electric buses.** |
| 3 | Why does Cho include the sentence about cold weather and battery range? | **It adds a practical concern about whether buses can complete routes and supports his call to study charging schedules carefully.** |
| 4 | How do Ortiz and Cho emphasize different information when discussing electric buses? | **Ortiz emphasizes the experience of children and drivers near buses, including noise and exhaust. Cho emphasizes purchase costs, charging needs, route schedules, and possible long-term savings.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The board should address charging plans first. Ortiz's description of the noisy, fuel-smelling pickup area shows that students and drivers could benefit from electric buses. However, Cho explains that cold weather can reduce driving range, so buses may not complete routes without a reliable charging schedule. The district should map routes and charging times, then use that plan to improve the bus zone.

Accept answers that identify paragraph 1 as context and accurately explain how a selected sentence adds evidence or reasoning. For the open response, accept a clear four-sentence recommendation that uses accurate details from both speakers and explains a priority.