

Media Lens

Compare sources before you form and share an opinion.

CE.9 "The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the role of the media and social media as well as its influence on local, state..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the name of each information source. Underline words or details that show an opinion, a possible bias, or missing context, so you can compare how each source presents the proposal.

A Bike Lane Debate

- ① At a Riverton City Council meeting, members considered adding a protected bike lane on Maple Street. A reporter from the Riverton Ledger attended, took notes, and asked officials for copies of the proposal. The First Amendment protects freedom of the press, so journalists may report on public meetings and question government actions. That freedom does not allow a reporter to invent facts. The Ledger's article stated that the proposal would remove ten parking spaces and would need a final council vote.
- ② That evening, the Maple Street Business Alliance posted, "The council is destroying local stores," and shared only a photo of crowded curbside parking. Its members may want to protect customer parking, a possible motivation for the post. A bike club's account wrote, "Safe routes cannot wait," and linked to injury data, but did not mention the lost spaces. Both posts expressed opinions. Their different word choices and selected details could lead readers to form different views of the same proposal.
- ③ Residents used media in several ways. One person sent the council a formal email supporting the lane. Another spoke during public comment and asked for a slower plan. Students reposted short videos, which spread quickly but sometimes left out the final-vote requirement. Before sharing, residents could check the council agenda, read the full Ledger article, and compare claims with the proposal. Looking at several sources helps people notice missing context, separate facts from opinions, and take part in policy decisions with better information.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Riverton Ledger reporter use the rights of the press at the council meeting?

2 What words and choices in the Business Alliance post could influence readers to oppose the bike lane?

3 Describe one important difference between the bike club post and the Business Alliance post. Why might each group present the proposal differently?

4 Name two ways Riverton residents expressed opinions about the proposal. Which source could they check before sharing a video, and why?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that your school board is considering a later school start time. Write 3 or 4 sentences for a public comment that states your position, names a source you would check, identifies a possible bias or motivation in a social media post, and explains why you would compare sources.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each information source. Underline words or details that show an opinion, a possible bias, or missing context, so you can compare how each source presents the proposal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Riverton Ledger reporter use the rights of the press at the council meeting?	The reporter attended the public meeting, took notes, asked officials for proposal copies, and could report on government actions under freedom of the press.
2	What words and choices in the Business Alliance post could influence readers to oppose the bike lane?	The post said the council was “destroying local stores” and shared only a photo of crowded parking. These choices use strong language and focus only on parking.
3	Describe one important difference between the bike club post and the Business Alliance post. Why might each group present the proposal differently?	The bike club linked to injury data but left out lost parking spaces, while the Business Alliance emphasized crowded parking. The bike club may want safer routes, and the alliance may want to protect customer parking.
4	Name two ways Riverton residents expressed opinions about the proposal. Which source could they check before sharing a video, and why?	Residents sent a formal email, spoke during public comment, and reposted videos. They could check the council agenda, full Ledger article, or proposal to verify details such as the final-vote requirement.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I support a later school start time because students need time to sleep. Before speaking, I would read the school board agenda and the district's transportation plan. A social media post from a bus company might focus on higher costs because the company could want to protect its contract. Comparing that post with board documents and student views would help me give an informed public comment.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify a source's selected details, language, audience, or possible interest as a source of bias. For the open response, check for all four requested parts and a reasonable connection between comparing sources and informed civic participation.