

Evidence in Action

Use several sources to explain a historical event.

S.USII.a “synthesizing evidence from information sources including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and diagrams to understand events in United States history;”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each source name. Write 1 beside details about what happened, 2 beside details about people’s plans or actions, and 3 beside details that show a source’s limit. You may use more than one number beside a detail.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

- 1 Source 1, the 1955 Arrest Record, is a primary source created by Montgomery, Alabama, police. It says Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1 for refusing an order to give up her bus seat. The record shows what officials charged, but it does not explain Parks’s reasons or how other residents responded.
- 2 Source 2, the “Don’t Ride the Bus” Leaflet, is a primary-source artifact handed out before the boycott began. It asked Black residents not to ride city buses on Monday, December 5. The leaflet gives organizers’ plan and the date they wanted people to act. It cannot prove how many people followed the request.

SOURCE 3, HISTORIAN’S EVENT-DATES TABLE	
Event	Date
Rosa Parks arrested	December 1, 1955
Bus boycott began	December 5, 1955
Montgomery buses integrated	December 21, 1956

- 3 Source 3, the Historian’s Event-Dates Table below, is a secondary source. It reports that the boycott began December 5, 1955, and buses were integrated in Montgomery on December 21, 1956. Together, the sources show that Parks’s arrest helped prompt organized action, and the action continued for more than a year before bus segregation ended.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which source is an artifact? What does it reveal about the boycott organizers' plan?

2 Compare Sources 1 and 3. What kind of source is each one, and what does each help you understand?

3 How does Source 3 support the idea that the boycott lasted for more than a year? Use both dates from the table.

4 How do Sources 1 and 2 connect Parks's arrest to organized action?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the table to make one historical claim about the Montgomery bus boycott. Use a different named source in each row, and explain how each detail supports your claim.

YOUR CLAIM	SOURCE AND DETAIL	HOW THE DETAIL SUPPORTS YOUR CLAIM

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each source name. Write 1 beside details about what happened, 2 beside details about people's plans or actions, and 3 beside details that show a source's limit. You may use more than one number beside a detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which source is an artifact? What does it reveal about the boycott organizers' plan?	Source 2, the "Don't Ride the Bus" Leaflet, is an artifact. It shows that organizers asked Black residents not to ride city buses on December 5.
2	Compare Sources 1 and 3. What kind of source is each one, and what does each help you understand?	Source 1 is a primary source that records Parks's arrest and charge. Source 3 is a secondary source that gives dates for the boycott's beginning and for bus integration.
3	How does Source 3 support the idea that the boycott lasted for more than a year? Use both dates from the table.	The table shows that the boycott began on December 5, 1955, and buses were integrated on December 21, 1956. The later date is more than one year after the beginning date.
4	How do Sources 1 and 2 connect Parks's arrest to organized action?	Source 1 shows that Parks was arrested on December 1. Source 2 shows that organizers then called for residents not to ride buses on December 5, connecting the arrest to a planned boycott.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

YOUR CLAIM	SOURCE AND DETAIL	HOW THE DETAIL SUPPORTS YOUR CLAIM
Rosa Parks's arrest helped start a planned boycott that lasted more than a year.	Source 1, the Arrest Record, says Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955.	The arrest happened just before the boycott began.
Rosa Parks's arrest helped start a planned boycott that lasted more than a year.	Source 2, the Leaflet, asked residents not to ride buses on December 5.	The leaflet shows that people planned a boycott soon after the arrest.
Rosa Parks's arrest helped start a planned boycott that lasted more than a year.	Source 3 says buses were integrated on December 21, 1956.	This date shows that the boycott continued for more than a year.

Accept claims that are supported by details from all three named sources. Students may phrase the connection between the arrest, the planned boycott, and its duration in different accurate ways.