

When Protest Grew

Trace the connected causes and effects of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

S.WG.f “determining and explaining cause-and-effect relationships;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause and circle each effect. Draw a small arrow from each cause to the effect it helped produce.

A Boycott Changes Montgomery

- ① On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, after she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Her arrest did not create anger about bus segregation by itself. For years, Black riders had paid fares yet faced insults, unequal treatment, and rules that forced them to give up seats. Local leaders, including members of the Women’s Political Council, had already discussed a protest. Because these problems had built over time, Parks’s arrest became a powerful immediate cause for action.
- ② The Women’s Political Council printed leaflets calling for Black residents to avoid city buses on December 5. Churches and community networks helped spread the message. On that day, many Black workers walked, shared rides, or used Black-owned taxis instead of riding buses. The successful one-day protest caused organizers to continue the boycott. They formed the Montgomery Improvement Association and chose Martin Luther King Jr. as its president. By organizing carpools and raising money, the group helped people keep participating despite long distances and financial pressure.
- ③ While the boycott continued, four Black women challenged Montgomery’s bus segregation in the federal case *Browder v. Gayle*. In June 1956, a federal court ruled that bus segregation violated the Constitution. The city appealed, but the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ruling later that year. After the Court’s order took effect on December 20, Montgomery had to desegregate its buses, and the boycott ended the next day. The boycott’s economic pressure and the court challenge worked together, showing that long-term change can result from several connected causes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What long-term conditions caused anger among Black bus riders before Rosa Parks's arrest? Explain how those conditions made her arrest a powerful immediate cause.

2 How did the leaflets, churches, and community networks help cause the December 5 protest to succeed?

3 Why did organizers continue the boycott after December 5? Give the cause and the effect.

4 Explain how the boycott and the court case Browder v. Gayle worked together to help end bus segregation in Montgomery.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A town has spent less money on one neighborhood's school for years. After a ceiling leak closes several classrooms, families speak at council meetings, and the council approves repairs and a more equal budget. In exactly 3 sentences, explain the underlying cause, the immediate cause, and two effects.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause and circle each effect. Draw a small arrow from each cause to the effect it helped produce. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What long-term conditions caused anger among Black bus riders before Rosa Parks's arrest? Explain how those conditions made her arrest a powerful immediate cause.	Black riders faced insults, unequal treatment, and rules forcing them to give up seats for years. These ongoing problems built anger, so Parks's arrest gave people an immediate reason to act.
2	How did the leaflets, churches, and community networks help cause the December 5 protest to succeed?	They spread the boycott message to Black residents. As a result, many people avoided buses by walking, sharing rides, or using Black-owned taxis.
3	Why did organizers continue the boycott after December 5? Give the cause and the effect.	The one-day protest was successful, so organizers continued the boycott and formed the Montgomery Improvement Association.
4	Explain how the boycott and the court case Browder v. Gayle worked together to help end bus segregation in Montgomery.	The boycott put economic pressure on Montgomery, while the court case challenged segregation legally. After the Supreme Court upheld the ruling and its order took effect, Montgomery had to desegregate its buses.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Years of lower spending were an underlying cause because the school building was not repaired. The ceiling leak was an immediate cause that led families to speak at council meetings. Their public pressure caused the council to approve repairs and a more equal budget.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that distinguish a long-term underlying cause from an immediate cause. For the open response, accept logical effects that follow from the stated events and include all requested parts.