

Select The Correct Text In The Passage. Which Detail Best Supports The Inference That A Boycott Is An

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Understanding how to analyze passages and select the correct supporting detail is an essential skill for students and readers aiming to improve their comprehension and inference abilities. When tasked with identifying the evidence that best supports an inference—such as understanding what a boycott is—it's crucial to carefully evaluate the details provided in the passage. This article will guide you through the process of selecting the most appropriate detail that supports the inference that a boycott is a form of protest or action taken to express disapproval or to bring about change.

Understanding the Concept of a Boycott

What Is a Boycott?

A boycott is a collective action where individuals or groups refuse to buy, use, or participate in certain products, services, or activities. The primary purpose of a boycott is to apply economic or social pressure to influence the behavior of a person, organization, or government. Boycotts are often used as peaceful protest methods to advocate for social change, fight injustice, or express disapproval of policies or practices.

Historical Examples of Boycotts

- **The Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–1956):** African Americans refused to use the bus system to protest segregation policies.
- **South African Anti-Apartheid Boycott:** International and domestic boycotts targeted South African goods and institutions to oppose apartheid policies.
- **Modern Consumer Boycotts:** Consumers refuse to buy products from companies involved in unethical practices.

Key Components of a Passage About Boycotts

Common Details You Might Encounter

When reading a passage about boycotts, look for information related to:

- The reasons behind the boycott
- The methods used to organize or carry out the boycott
- The intended outcomes or goals
- The reactions of those being boycotted
- The broader social or political context

How to Identify Supporting Details

1. **Read Carefully:** Pay attention to sentences that explain the purpose or effects of the boycott.
2. **Look for Clues:** Words such as "protest," "refuse," "disapprove," or "pressure" often signal the nature of a boycott.
3. **Connect Details to the Inference:** Determine which details directly support the idea that a boycott is a form of organized protest or action.

How To Select The Best Supporting Detail

Step-by-Step Approach

1. **Identify the Inference:** Clearly understand the statement or conclusion the question is asking about, e.g., "A boycott is an organized protest."
2. **Scan for Relevant Details:** Read the passage and highlight or note details related to actions, motives, or effects of a boycott.
3. **Evaluate Each Detail:** Determine how each detail relates to the inference. Does it provide evidence or just background information?
4. **Select the Most Direct Support:** Choose the detail that most explicitly confirms or illustrates the inference.

Sample Passage and Question Analysis

Sample Passage

In response to unfair labor practices, workers decided to organize a boycott of the company's products. They urged consumers to stop purchasing goods from the company until their demands for better wages and working conditions were met. The boycott gained widespread support, leading to a significant decline in sales for the company. This form of protest allowed workers and consumers to voice their disapproval non-violently and to exert economic pressure on the company to change its policies.

Question

Which detail best supports the inference that a boycott is an organized protest?

Possible Answers

- A. The workers demanded better wages and working conditions.
- B. The boycott led to a decline in sales for the company.
- C. Consumers stopped purchasing goods from the company.
- D. The boycott gained widespread support.

Analysis

The correct answer is D: "The boycott gained widespread support." This detail indicates organization and collective action, supporting the inference that a boycott is an organized protest. While other options relate to the consequences or motives, the support and collective nature of the action best demonstrate organization, which is key to the definition of a boycott as an organized protest.

Additional Tips for Selecting Supporting Details

- **Look for Explicit Language:** Words like "organized," "collective," "refuse," or "protest" are strong indicators.
- **Differentiate Between Background and Support:** Not all details in a passage support the inference; focus on those that directly reinforce it.
- **Use Context Clues:** Consider the sentences before and after the detail to understand its relevance.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Choosing Vague Details:** Avoid selecting details that are merely background information or unrelated.
2. **Overlooking the Main Idea:** Ensure the detail you select directly supports the inference, not just tangentially related information.

3. **Ignoring Context:** Always consider the context to understand how a detail supports the main inference.

Practice Exercise

Read the following passage and select the detail that best supports the inference that a boycott is a method of peaceful protest.

Passage

When communities face unethical business practices, residents often choose to organize a boycott. By refusing to buy products from certain companies, they send a message about their disapproval. This non-violent strategy allows people to stand up for their beliefs without resorting to violence or other aggressive actions. Boycotts can last for days, months, or even years, depending on the goals of those involved. The key aspect is the collective refusal to participate as a way to advocate for change.

Options

1. A. Boycotts involve violent protests to make a statement.
2. B. Boycotts are a way for people to express disapproval through non-violent means.
3. C. Companies usually ignore boycotts and continue their practices.
4. D. Boycotts are a quick way to resolve conflicts.

Correct Answer and Explanation

The best supporting detail is B: "Boycotts are a way for people to express disapproval through non-violent means." This explicitly states that boycotts are peaceful protests, aligning with the inference that a boycott is a method of peaceful protest.

Conclusion

Mastering the skill of choosing the correct supporting detail is vital for effective reading comprehension and inference-making. When analyzing passages about boycotts, focus on details that highlight organization, collective action, or peaceful protest methods. Remember, the most supportive detail will directly reinforce the core idea or inference you are asked to confirm. Regular practice with sample passages and questions will improve your ability to quickly identify the best evidence, making your reading more analytical and precise.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main purpose of selecting the correct text in a passage?

To identify the specific detail that best supports an inference or understanding about the passage.

How does selecting the correct detail help in understanding the concept of a boycott?

It highlights the key information that explains the reasons or implications of a boycott, supporting the inference.

What type of detail would best support the inference that a boycott is

a form of protest?

A detail that describes a boycott as a collective refusal to buy goods or participate in activities as a form of protest.

Which detail from a passage would most strongly support the idea that a boycott is a deliberate action?

A statement indicating that groups intentionally choose not to engage in certain activities to make a point.

Why is it important to select the most relevant detail when supporting an inference about a boycott?

Because it ensures that the conclusion drawn is based on accurate and specific information from the passage.

Can a detail about the history of boycotts support the inference about their purpose?

Yes, historical details can provide context that supports understanding why boycotts are used and what they aim to achieve.

What is an example of a detail that would NOT support the inference that a boycott is an effective way to bring change?

A detail that states boycotts are often ignored or have no impact, which does not support their effectiveness.

How can identifying the correct detail improve comprehension of the

passage?

It helps focus on the most relevant information that clarifies the main idea or inference about the topic.

In what way does selecting the correct detail relate to critical reading skills?

It demonstrates the ability to analyze the passage and distinguish supporting evidence from less relevant information.

What is a key indicator that a detail supports the inference that a boycott is an organized protest?

The presence of details describing coordinated actions by groups to oppose or protest policies or practices.

Additional Resources

Select The Correct Text In The Passage: Which Detail Best Supports The Inference That A Boycott Is An

In the realm of reading comprehension and critical analysis, the ability to select the most appropriate textual evidence to support an inference is a skill of paramount importance. Whether for academic exams, professional evaluations, or everyday critical thinking, understanding how to align details within a passage with broader inferences is a key competency. Today, we will explore this essential skill through the lens of a specific example: determining which detail best supports the inference that a boycott is an action taken to express dissent or protest.

This article will serve as an in-depth guide, not only to the mechanics of selecting supporting details but also to understanding the subtle nuances that make certain pieces of evidence more compelling than others. We will approach this task systematically, breaking down the passage, analyzing potential

supporting details, and providing expert insights into how to make the most accurate choice.

Understanding the Concept of Inference and Supporting Details

Before diving into the specific question, it's crucial to clarify what is meant by inference and supporting details.

What is an Inference?

An inference is a logical conclusion or deduction made based on information provided in a text, combined with the reader's prior knowledge. Unlike explicitly stated facts, inferences are implied; they require the reader to read between the lines and interpret the underlying meaning.

Example:

If a passage describes a boy holding a sign that says "Justice for All" during a rally, an inference might be that the boy is protesting against injustice.

What are Supporting Details?

Supporting details are specific pieces of information—facts, examples, descriptions, or quotes—that reinforce or justify an inference. They serve as evidence that helps confirm the reader's conclusion.

In the context of a boycott:

Supporting details might include descriptions of protests, statements from organizers, or mentions of economic or social pressures.

Analyzing the Passage: Context and Content

Suppose we are given a passage that discusses a boycott—perhaps a community refusing to buy certain products, a group protesting government policies, or students refusing to attend school. The critical task is to identify which detail in the passage best supports the inference that the boycott is an act of protest or dissent.

Example Passage (Hypothetical):

"The local community decided to stop purchasing products from the major corporation for three weeks. The group issued a statement saying, 'Our actions are a peaceful way to voice our disagreement with the company's environmental practices.' Several members carried signs that read, 'Stop Pollution,' and organized rallies outside stores. Many residents explained that they hoped their boycott would draw attention to the company's harmful policies and encourage change."

In this example, the inference is:

The boycott is an act of protest to express disagreement and push for change.

Identifying Key Details Supporting the Inference

When selecting the detail that best supports this inference, consider the nature and tone of each piece of information:

- The community's decision to stop purchasing: Shows action but doesn't specify intent.
- The issued statement about voicing disagreement: Explicitly states the purpose of their actions.
- Signs like "Stop Pollution": Visual evidence of protest themes.
- Organized rallies: Indicates collective action aimed at raising awareness.

- Residents' explanations about drawing attention and encouraging change: Connects the act of boycotting with the goal of protesting and advocacy.

From these, the most compelling supporting detail is:

> The group issued a statement saying, "Our actions are a peaceful way to voice our disagreement with the company's environmental practices."

This directly links the boycott to dissent and protest, making it the strongest evidence to support the inference.

Expert Breakdown: Why Some Details Are Stronger Than Others

Understanding why certain details support an inference more effectively involves examining their specificity, clarity, and relevance.

Factors that make a detail the best support:

1. Explicit Connection to the Inference:

Details that directly mention the purpose or intent behind the boycott are more effective. For example, a statement about voicing disagreement explicitly confirms the protest motive.

2. Clarity of Language:

Clear, unambiguous language (e.g., "voice our disagreement") leaves little room for misinterpretation.

3. Supporting Context:

Additional evidence like signs, rallies, or residents' explanations that reinforce the message.

Factors that weaken support:

- Vague or neutral details (e.g., "decided to stop purchasing" without context).
- Descriptions of actions without stated purpose.
- Details unrelated to protest or dissent, such as economic impacts.

Guidelines for Selecting the Best Supporting Detail

To systematically identify the best evidence in any passage, consider the following steps:

1. Read the Passage Carefully:

Grasp the overall message and tone.

2. Identify the Inference:

Clarify what conclusion is being drawn or what idea is being supported.

3. Highlight Potential Supporting Details:

Mark facts, statements, or descriptions that relate to the inference.

4. Evaluate the Relevance and Specificity:

Determine which detail most directly and clearly supports the inference.

5. Cross-Check for Explicitness:

Prefer details that explicitly connect the action to its purpose.

6. Consider the Context:

Ensure the detail fits logically within the overall argument or narrative.

Applying This to Different Types of Passages

While our example focused on a community boycott, the principles are applicable across various contexts:

- Political protests: Look for statements or actions explicitly expressing dissent.
- Labor strikes: Focus on reasons given by workers or organizers.
- Consumer boycotts: Seek explanations tied to social, ethical, or environmental concerns.
- International sanctions: Identify diplomatic or protest-related language.

In each case, the key is to find the detail that most directly links the action to its underlying motive.

Summary and Final Tips

In conclusion, selecting the correct supporting detail requires a careful balance of comprehension, analytical thinking, and contextual awareness. Remember:

- Always identify the core inference first.
- Prioritize explicit, relevant details that clearly state or imply the purpose.
- Be wary of details that are tangential or neutral.
- Use process-of-elimination when multiple details seem plausible; choose the most directly connected.

Final tip: Practice with diverse passages to sharpen your ability to detect subtle cues and strengthen your inference-supporting skills. Over time, this will become an intuitive part of your reading comprehension toolkit—making your analysis more accurate, nuanced, and confident.

In essence, understanding which detail best supports an inference about a boycott involves recognizing explicit statements of purpose, observing visual or contextual cues of protest, and evaluating how directly each piece of evidence connects to the idea of dissent or advocacy. By applying these principles diligently, you can master the art of selecting the most compelling textual support, enhancing both your comprehension and critical thinking prowess.

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