Interpreting Diverse Media

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

Information can come in many forms: text, charts, podcasts, infographics, photos, and videos. Each form has STRENGTHS (charts show numbers clearly, video shows motion, audio captures a voice) and LIMITS (a chart can mislead with its scale, a photo can be cropped). A strong listener/viewer figures out (1) what the source is actually showing, (2) where that information fits into the topic, and (3) what is missing.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Transcript: Class presentation - Aanya on bottled water vs. tap water

Today I'm going to compare bottled water and tap water using three different sources. The first source is a CHART from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showing the average cost per gallon of bottled water versus tap water in 2023. According to the chart, bottled water costs about $9.50 per gallon, while tap water costs less than a single cent per gallon - that is more than a thousand times the price.

The second source is a 30-second VIDEO CLIP from a city water-treatment plant. The clip shows river water flowing through three stages: large filters that remove leaves and debris, smaller filters that catch fine particles, and a treatment tank where the water is disinfected. The video doesn't include numbers, but it makes the cleaning process easy to see in a way that a paragraph couldn't.

The third source is an AUDIO INTERVIEW with Dr. Reyes, a public-health researcher. Dr. Reyes explains that in most U.S. cities, tap water is tested for safety more often than bottled water is - sometimes hundreds of times a day. Her tone is calm and matter-of-fact, but you can hear her emphasize the word 'tested' each time she says it.

Each source teaches us something different. The chart gives us numbers, the video shows us a process, and the interview adds an expert's voice. Putting them together, I argue that tap water in most U.S. cities is cheaper, frequently tested, and produced by a process you can actually see - three things bottled water cannot equally claim.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read the transcript and the description of the embedded chart/video clip. Answer the items.

1. Which source is BEST for showing the COST DIFFERENCE between bottled and tap water?

   A. The 30-second video of the treatment plant.

   B. The audio interview with Dr. Reyes.

   C. The EPA chart showing per-gallon cost in 2023.

   D. The student's spoken introduction.

2. What does the VIDEO CLIP from the treatment plant show that the chart and audio cannot?

   A. Exact numerical cost differences.

   B. Dr. Reyes's tone of voice.

   C. The visual PROCESS of water being filtered, in motion through three stages.

   D. Statistics about how often water is tested.

3. What does the AUDIO INTERVIEW with Dr. Reyes add that the chart and video cannot?

   A. Cost numbers.

   B. An EXPERT VOICE and TONE - hearing a researcher emphasize the word *tested* communicates her confidence in a way a number alone cannot.

   C. Motion footage of water filtering.

   D. A visual side-by-side comparison.

4. Aanya argues that the THREE sources work BETTER TOGETHER than any one alone. Why is that?

   A. Because three sources are required by law.

   B. Because each source has different STRENGTHS, and together they cover cost, process, AND expert credibility - giving the audience a fuller picture than any one source could.

   C. Because three sources will make the presentation exactly three times as long.

   D. Because three sources always agree with each other.

5. Imagine the EPA chart's y-axis went from $9.00 to $9.60 instead of from $0 to $10. What problem could this create?

   A. The chart would be too colorful.

   B. The chart would still show $9.50 per gallon clearly and there would be no problem.

   C. The chart could MISLEAD viewers by making bottled water cost look smaller than it is, because tap water would barely appear on the scale.

   D. The chart would only work for kids.

6. Which is the BEST one-sentence summary of what Aanya argues, drawing on all three sources?

   A. Tap water is cheaper than bottled water.

   B. Tap water comes out of pipes and is okay.

   C. Tap water in most U.S. cities is CHEAPER (per the chart), produced by a VISIBLE process (per the video), and frequently TESTED (per the interview), so it compares favorably with bottled water on three fronts.

   D. I love drinking water.

7. Which question would BEST help a listener EVALUATE the EPA chart?

A. What color is the chart's background?

B. How big is the screen the chart is being shown on?

C. What did Aanya have for breakfast that day?

D. What is the chart's scale on the y-axis, and what year does the data cover?

8. Aanya could STRENGTHEN her presentation by adding ONE more source. Which addition would add the MOST NEW information?

A. A second cost chart for the same year showing nearly identical numbers.

B. A photograph of Aanya's water bottle on her desk.

C. A peer-reviewed study comparing health outcomes in cities with high tap-water use versus high bottled-water use.

D. A poster that says I love water in big letters.

9. Imagine Aanya gives the same presentation but uses ONLY the EPA chart. Write ONE sentence describing what she would LOSE by dropping the video and the audio interview.

_____

_____

10. Pick ONE of the three sources (chart, video, or audio interview) and write ONE sentence explaining its main STRENGTH and ONE specific LIMIT.

_____

_____

Answer Keys

1	A	B	**C**	D	6	A	B	**C**	D
2	A	B	**C**	D	7	A	B	C	**D**
3	A	**B**	C	D	8	A	B	**C**	D
4	A	**B**	C	D	9	See below			
5	A	B	**C**	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. C	Numbers shown side by side (cost per gallon) are exactly what a CHART does best. A is a process video, not a cost comparison. B is voice and expertise, not numbers. D is an introduction, not the source itself.
2. C	Video shows MOTION and VISUAL PROCESS - here, water moving through three filtering stages. A is the chart's job. B is the audio's job. D is the audio interview's content.
3. B	Audio interviews carry tone, emphasis, and the authority of a named expert. B names exactly that. A is the chart's job. C is the video's job. D is the chart's job.
4. B	B names the real value of using multiple FORMATS: each format does something the others can't, so combining them strengthens the overall claim. A is false. C confuses sources with length. D is unrelated to the real reason.
5. C	Y-axis scale changes what a chart APPEARS to show: a zoomed-in axis can make a huge gap look small or vice versa. C identifies that exact risk. A is irrelevant. B ignores the scale effect. D is irrelevant.
6. C	C names ALL THREE strands of evidence and ties them to the claim. A captures only the chart. B is a vague aside. D is unrelated personal opinion.
7. D	D zeroes in on the two things that determine whether a chart is fair: SCALE (does it distort?) and DATE (is it current?). A and B are irrelevant cosmetic details. C is irrelevant to the chart's reliability.
8. C	C adds a NEW kind of evidence (health outcomes) that none of the existing sources cover. A duplicates the chart. B is a personal photo with no analytical value. D is decoration, not evidence.
9.	**Answer:** Examples: (1) She would lose both the visual process from the video and the expert voice from Dr. Reyes, so the audience would have only cost numbers without seeing how water is treated or hearing an expert vouch for tap water safety. (2) Without the video, the audience would not see the actual filtering steps; without the audio, the audience would not hear an expert emphasize how often tap water is tested - the case for tap water would shrink to a single chart. (3) She would lose the process evidence and the expert testimony, so a viewer might believe she only has one piece of evidence (cost) and could miss the safety and process story behind tap water. Accept any single sentence that (a) names BOTH things lost (the process/video AND the expert voice/audio) OR (b) names ONE of them and explains the specific kind of information that disappears. NOT acceptable: a vague answer like 'it would be worse' or 'she would lose information' with no specifics, or a sentence that does not actually identify what each format was contributing.

10.	**Answer:** Examples: (1) CHART - Strength: shows the cost difference clearly with two numbers side by side. Limit: a misleading scale on the y-axis could exaggerate or hide the gap. (2) VIDEO - Strength: shows the actual treatment process in motion so the audience can see it work. Limit: it shows no numbers and no expert opinion, so it can't on its own support a measurable claim. (3) AUDIO INTERVIEW - Strength: adds an expert voice and tone that build trust. Limit: an interview reflects ONE expert's view and offers no visuals or measurements. Accept any answer that (a) names ONE specific source AND (b) gives ONE accurate strength AND ONE accurate, source-appropriate limit. NOT acceptable: a generic answer that names no source, an answer where the strength or limit doesn't actually fit the source, or an answer that gives only a strength or only a limit.

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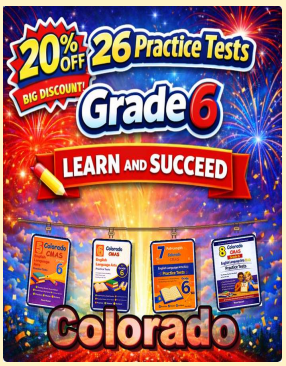

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