

Quiz A: RI.6.5

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Letter to the Editor in Support of Preserving Local Covered Bridges

Mr. Casey Grant, Editor
Newfound Times

Dear Mr. Grant:

- 1 Last Monday, my classmates and I attended our county's town hall meeting. We listened to an interesting argument on whether or not it would be worthwhile to spend tax dollars to preserve the covered bridges that are still functioning in our city and county. Everyone in attendance felt strongly about the issue and gave impassioned pleas during the meeting. The different opinions fell into one of two groups: those who strongly wanted to use tax money and those who did not. At times, the debate was almost heated. In spite of their strong feelings, both groups remained business-like and professional. They presented facts and details that supported their positions.
- 2 After the meeting, my class was able to ask questions of members from each group. Students were each assigned a person to interview. Afterwards, we got together and discussed the interviews. Then we each went off to do additional research. We looked at photographs of old covered bridges from our city and our county. We also looked at historical bridges that are famous across the country. We wanted to discover the history behind famous bridges. Once our research was completed, we shared our findings. After our own debate, we decided which position to support: We are for using taxpayer dollars to help in the preservation of covered bridges in our county.
- 3 Our opinion may seem surprising, considering that we are so young. Why would these old bridges have value for us? Why would we support spending tax dollars to preserve history?
- 4 After poring over images of travel across these bridges from as far back as 150 years ago, an amazing thing happened. We discovered that by learning more about our past, we actually learned more about the present. Exploring these covered bridges and modes of transportation from the past, we came to value today's conveniences even more. This project has instilled in us a greater appreciation for those that came before us. We don't want to live in the past, but we know that we can learn from it in many ways. We feel that those people who insist that these old bridges mean nothing are just living with their heads in the sand.
- 5 Everyone in our class agreed that understanding their past gives people a sense of where they are going. We want to preserve roadways and bridges of the past because they provide us with an effective guide for moving forward. We do not wish to be a generation lost in an unsure future. And we don't think the small increase in tax burden is too much to ask.
- 6 We want to be part of a future generation that not only is known for respecting and honoring the past, but can use that knowledge to fuel discoveries for the future. Maybe saving these covered bridges will ultimately lead to nothing. Or maybe these bridges represent the key to the next big thing. The truth is, we don't know.

