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How and why do historians corroborate their sources?

Objective:

- **Describe** what corroboration is.
- **Corroborate** sources to determine what happened during the lunchroom fight.

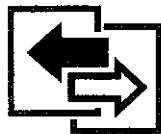
Lunchroom Fight Introduction

➡ **Directions:** Read the information below and answer the question that follows.

The principal interviewed eleven people during the investigation, including Justin, Max, Eric (Max's good friend), Anthony (a bystander), Megan (Max's girlfriend), Alicia (a girl in the same grade as Max and Justin), a Cafeteria worker, Max's mother, Justin's father, Jamie (a student in English class with Max and Justin in the period right before lunch), and an English teacher.

Why do you think the principal interviewed so many people? What are the benefits of interviewing more people?

Corroboration is the act of *comparing pieces of evidence* to see where they agree or disagree.



Historians **corroborate** to understand multiple perspectives of an event to get closer to uncovering what actually happened.

Corroborate

What do other documents say?	Do the documents agree ? If not, why?
What other documents may clarify our understanding?	What is the perspective of the author of the statement? What is the author's bias ?

Corroboration Practice

➡ **Directions:** Read the scenario and accounts below then answer the questions that follow to explain how each piece of evidence corroborates the initial account.

Scenario:

On the night before the big game between your school's team, the Panthers, and you biggest rivals, the Bears, the Bears' locker room was vandalized. Many of the players from the Bears are accusing members of your team of committing the vandalism. The Panthers say that they couldn't have vandalized the locker room because they were all out for pizza when the locker room was raided.

Account A:

Statement by the Panther quarterback's older sister saying that she drove them to the pizza place on the night the locker room was vandalized.

Account B:

Statement from the Bears' running back saying that he saw the Panthers at the pizza place the night the locker room was vandalized.

1. What is the perspective of the author of Account A? What is the author's bias?

2. What is the perspective of the author of Account B? What is the author's bias?

3. How do both Account A and Account B corroborate the Panthers' account?

4. Which account, A or B, is more reliable for the purpose of finding out if the Panthers vandalized the locker room? Explain.

5. What other accounts might clarify whether the Panthers were at the pizza place? Who would they be from?

Lunchroom Fight Corroboration Practice

➡ **Directions:** Returning to the lunchroom fight, read through the accounts of the fight and then, after considering the perspective and bias of each speaker, answer the question, "What happened during the lunchroom fight?"

Source	What is the perspective of the author about who is responsible for starting the fight?	What is the author's bias?	What evidence from this source will help you determine what caused the lunch room?
Justin: "That kid started it. Max. I was just standing in line waiting to pay for my food, and he shoved me super hard. And, like, for no reason. He just freaked out on me. I don't even know the kid, and he's been weird to me ever since I started going to this school. He and his friends glare at me in English class for no reason."			
Max: "That kid is psycho. He turned around and punched me out of nowhere. Me and my friends were standing in line just joking around, and he turned around and punched me for no reason. He's messed up and creepy. Ask anyone."			
Eric (Max's good friend): "The new kid definitely started it. He really just attacked out of nowhere. He's a freak, and he seriously thinks he's better than everyone because of his dad."			
Anthony (bystander): "I was pretty far back in the line, but Max and his friends were being kind of loud and joking around. I couldn't really hear what they were saying. And then all of a sudden I saw people pulling Justin and Max apart."			
Megan (Max's girlfriend): "I wasn't there. All I can say is that Max has been really different lately and kind of mean. I don't know what's going on, but he's not himself."			
Cafeteria worker: "The group of boys were pushing each other around. I think it was an accident, and one of them pushed into the new boy, and he took it the wrong way."			

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SQ 4: How and why do historians corroborate their sources?

➡ **Directions:** Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.



Part I

Describe what corroboration is. **Explain** why historians corroborate sources.

Corroborate

Part II

➡ **Directions:** Based on the sources provided, describe what happened during the lunchroom fight.