

Name and Date _____

Handout 3: Cloverville Sources

Source 1: News Article from the *Cloverville Times Newspaper*

The following is an online newspaper article that was written by an award-winning writer who has been covering the debate about sidewalks in the town of Cloverville for 3 years. The writer has a graduate degree in journalism and has spent 15 years writing for newspapers in and around Cloverville.

Plans to add new sidewalks dominated the discussion at the Cloverville Town Council meeting last week. The discussion came about after several middle school students told the Council that it was difficult to get to school because there were only a few sidewalks near the middle school. The seven council members, who are elected by the voters within their neighborhood and carry out legislative powers, reviewed the current policies on sidewalks. The Council found that town policy requires sidewalks to be installed whenever new streets are built. They also found that it was difficult to add sidewalks to older, existing streets.

Many residents (private citizens) spoke at the meeting, some for and some against adding sidewalks. One citizen argued that the neighborhoods that needed the sidewalks the most were ones with older streets. Another citizen said that adding sidewalks to older streets and neighborhoods was a waste of taxpayer money.

After giving residents the opportunity to speak, the council members discussed a proposal, which included allocating almost \$1,000,000 to improving sidewalks in town. The proposal included the following:

- building and repairing sidewalks on streets within one mile of the middle school
- creating additional crosswalks near the middle school
- rebuilding driveways along sidewalks to comply with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)
- increasing local taxes 2.5% to support the cost of the project

The council members have asked the town's public works department to analyze the costs involved. Based on this analysis, the Council will determine if the proposal to improve the sidewalks should be approved. The Town Council will vote on the proposal next month.

Source 2: Op-Ed from the *Cloverville Times Newspaper*

The following is part of an Op-Ed written by a person who lives in Cloverville about sidewalks in the community.

I have lived in Cloverville for over 20 years, and I am against the sidewalk proposal being considered by the Town Council. I want our children to be safe, but adding more sidewalks is not the answer. First of all, should middle school students be expected to walk one mile to school? Secondly, would allowing more students to walk to school be good for students and their parents? Would drivers be distracted by many students crossing roads while they walked to school? Finally, our town should not spend one million dollars on sidewalks that may not even be used, especially if the project will increase our local taxes. We must ask ourselves if these sidewalks are really needed, and if that money would be better spent in other parts of our community, such as sports fields and playgrounds. Other towns have addressed getting students to school safely for much less money. Their proposals include adding more bus routes and adding crosswalks on major roads. Cloverville should follow the lead of other towns and use taxpayer's money on parts of the community that are in greater need.

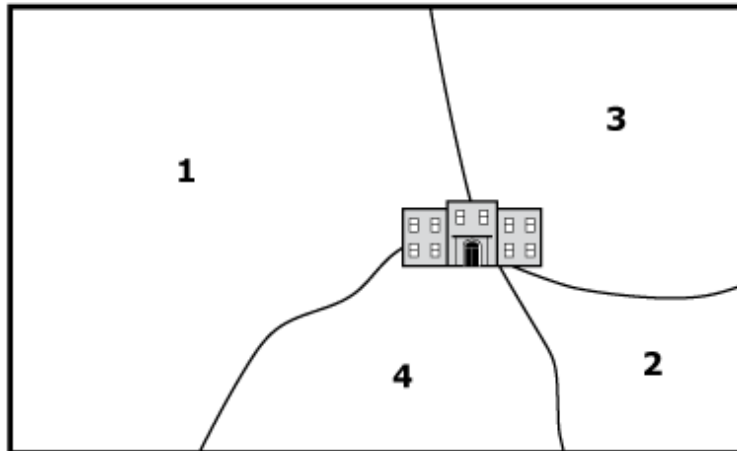
Source 3: Cloverville's Sidewalk and Demographic Data by Town Neighborhoods

The following table and map were published in the Cloverville Times Newspaper when the sidewalk proposal was first discussed at the Town Council. The data were researched and cross-checked with other sources.

Cloverville's Sidewalk and Demographic Data by Town Neighborhood


Town Neighborhood	Percentage of Roads with Sidewalks	Number of Middle School-Age Children	Median Income of Residents	Total Population
1	5%	1,000	\$35,000	6,464
2	70%	550	\$50,000	4,589
3	2%	750	\$30,000	5,898
4	97%	500	\$62,000	5,689

Locations of Four Town Neighborhoods and the Middle School in Cloverville



Source 4: Social Media Post by Residents of Cloverville

The following social media posts were made by two public interest groups in the town and shared among Cloverville residents.





Cloverville Parents for Sidewalks

Protect Our Students

Contact members of the Cloverville Town Council and tell them to vote YES to improve our sidewalks and build new ones. We want our students to get to school safely. It is well worth the cost!

3:54 PM • May 2, 2022

310 Retweets **214** Quote Tweets **4.6K** Likes

Cloverville Public Library Association

No New Sidewalks

Tell the Cloverville Town Council to vote "no" on the new sidewalk proposal. We have been waiting five years for the Town Council to approve funding for a new library. The community will be better served by a new library.

1:54 PM • May 5, 2022

424 Retweets **603** Quote Tweets **3.8K** Likes