Listen Before Deciding

Evaluate spoken evidence for a library-hours decision

12.RL.26 "Locate and acquire audible information to answer a question, solve a problem, or defend a position, utilizing active listening to assess its usefulness, relevance, and credibility."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Cover the transcript while a partner reads the three statements aloud, then ask your partner to reread the statement you most need to check before deciding whether Bayview Library should test Sunday hours. Uncover the transcript, underline useful evidence, circle clues to each speaker's credibility, and number the statements from most to least useful.

Should Bayview Library Open on Sundays?

1. Statement 1, Mara Chen, Bayview Library director: Our board is considering an eight-week Sunday opening trial from noon to four. Last month, 186 people answered a survey linked in our library newsletter, and 132 said they would visit on Sundays. That sounds promising, but newsletter subscribers already use the library, so the result cannot represent every resident. We also counted 41 visitors who entered during the final hour of four Saturdays combined. Those counts show late-week demand, not Sunday demand. During a trial, I would track Sunday visits and ask visitors what other hours they could use.

2. Statement 2, Eli Torres, high school student: I asked 12 students in my debate club whether they would use a Sunday study space. Nine said yes. The club meets after school and attracts students who seek extra practice, so my group is hardly a random sample. My apartment is crowded, and I would come to the library on Sundays before major exams. I can describe that need firsthand, but I cannot say how many families across town share it. A trial would tell us more than my club's vote, especially if visitors could explain why they came.

3. Statement 3, Dev Patel, library budget manager: I manage the library's staffing budget. Our preliminary estimate for eight Sundays, noon to four, is $3,200 for wages and utilities, assuming two employees each day. That estimate does not include security costs if our current contract cannot be extended; I have asked the contractor for a quote. We could pay the $3,200 from this year's unspent programming funds, but doing so would cancel two planned workshops. Before approving a trial, I would compare the final cost with the number of visits and ask whose access improves. I have not measured Sunday demand.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which speaker gives firsthand evidence of a need for Sunday study space? Explain why that evidence cannot predict demand across Bayview.

2. How useful is Chen's survey for deciding whether to test Sunday hours? Cite one result and one credibility concern she identifies.

3. What information does Patel provide that the other speakers do not, and what missing information limits a decision based on his estimate?

4. Which statement did you ask to hear again? Identify the claim you checked and explain how it could affect your recommendation about a trial.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A community center is considering Saturday evening hours for teens. In 3 to 4 sentences, identify two people you would seek out to hear speak, give one question for each, and explain how you would judge the relevance and credibility of their answers.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 12 · 12.RL.26

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Cover the transcript while a partner reads the three statements aloud, then ask your partner to reread the statement you most need to check before deciding whether Bayview Library should test Sunday hours. Uncover the transcript, underline useful evidence, circle clues to each speaker's credibility, and number the statements from most to least useful. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which speaker gives firsthand evidence of a need for Sunday study space? Explain why that evidence cannot predict demand across Bayview.	**Eli describes needing a quiet place to study in a crowded apartment. His debate-club responses come from only 12 students in a group that may not represent Bayview residents.**
2	How useful is Chen's survey for deciding whether to test Sunday hours? Cite one result and one credibility concern she identifies.	**The survey suggests possible demand because 132 of 186 respondents said they would visit on Sundays. It reached newsletter subscribers, who already use the library, so it cannot represent every resident.**
3	What information does Patel provide that the other speakers do not, and what missing information limits a decision based on his estimate?	**Patel estimates $3,200 for wages and utilities and says that paying it would cancel two workshops. The estimate may rise because security costs are not yet known.**
4	Which statement did you ask to hear again? Identify the claim you checked and explain how it could affect your recommendation about a trial.	**Answers vary. For example, a student might replay Patel's statement to check whether $3,200 includes security. It does not, so the final cost could affect whether a trial is worth funding.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would listen to teens who need a place to go on Saturday evenings and ask when they would use the center. I would ask the staffing manager what the added hours would cost. The teens' direct experience would help establish whether the hours meet a need, while the manager's records could support a reliable cost estimate. I would also ask whether the teens represent others in the neighborhood and whether the estimate includes every staffing expense.

Accept different usefulness rankings and replay choices when students cite accurate details and distinguish a speaker's direct knowledge from the limits of that evidence.