# Sunday Library Debate

Evaluate how a speaker builds an argument.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.3** "Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the speaker's main claim and reasons. Circle each piece of evidence, then number two rhetorical moves, such as a question, image, or persuasive word choice, that the speaker uses to influence the board.

### Speech to the Library Board

(1) Good evening, library board. I believe the Riverton Library should stay open for four hours on Sundays during the school year. Right now, its doors are closed all day Sunday, even though many students have projects due on Monday. A library is more than a building with shelves. It is a quiet place to research, print assignments, and ask a trained librarian for help. Families who work late on weekdays need that place as well.

(2) Some board members may say Sunday hours would serve only a few people. However, the student council surveyed 120 students last month, and 78 said they would use the library on at least some Sundays. The survey does not tell us how often they would come, so it cannot predict every visitor. Still, it shows real interest. The library already has computers, study tables, and staff trained to help visitors, so opening the existing space may be more useful than building a new study center.

(3) Please picture a seventh grader at a kitchen table, trying to finish a science report while younger siblings play nearby. Should that student lose access to reliable sources because the calendar says Sunday? I am not asking the board to open every day for twelve hours. Start with a four-hour Sunday trial from October through May, then count visitors and ask them what they used. If the trial is rarely used, the board can change the plan. But if it helps students and families, Riverton will have made a wise, welcoming choice.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the speaker's point of view about Sunday library hours?

2. What evidence does the speaker use to show that people would use the library on Sundays?

3. What limit of the survey does the speaker admit? Why does that limit matter?

4. Name one rhetorical move from paragraph 3 and explain how it may influence the board.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short response to the library board evaluating this speech. Explain whether the evidence is strong enough to support a Sunday trial, describe one rhetorical move that affects you, and name one more piece of evidence the board should request.

ANSWER KEY

# Sunday Library Debate

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.SL.3

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main claim and reasons. Circle each piece of evidence, then number two rhetorical moves, such as a question, image, or persuasive word choice, that the speaker uses to influence the board. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What is the speaker's point of view about Sunday library hours? | **The speaker believes the Riverton Library should open for four hours on Sundays during the school year.** |
| 2 | What evidence does the speaker use to show that people would use the library on Sundays? | **The student council surveyed 120 students, and 78 said they would use the library on at least some Sundays.** |
| 3 | What limit of the survey does the speaker admit? Why does that limit matter? | **The survey does not show how often students would visit, so it cannot predict the total number of Sunday visitors.** |
| 4 | Name one rhetorical move from paragraph 3 and explain how it may influence the board. | **The speaker asks a rhetorical question about a student losing access to reliable sources. It encourages the board to feel concerned about students who need a quiet place to work. The image of a student working near younger siblings is also acceptable.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The speech gives a reasonable reason to try Sunday hours because 78 of 120 surveyed students said they would use the library. However, the board should ask how often those students would come and whether families would use the library, too. The image of a student trying to work while younger siblings play makes the need for a quiet workspace feel real. A visitor count from a trial would help the board decide whether to continue the hours.

Accept responses that accurately evaluate the survey as useful but limited and explain the effect of a specific rhetorical move. In Part 3, students should make a supported judgment and suggest relevant additional evidence.