Evidence Before Action

Analyze how a public recommendation uses evidence, limits, and evaluation criteria.

12.P.EICC.2.d "Interpret and construct texts to aid the analysis and evaluation of texts and ideas. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author's main recommendation, circle the details offered as evidence, and number the four measures proposed for judging the pilot. These marks will help you evaluate how the author builds a case.

A Later Library Closing

1 During July heat advisories, the East Branch Library currently closes at 5 p.m., just as temperatures often remain high and many apartments are still warm. The city is considering a pilot that would keep the branch open until 8 p.m. on advisory days. I support the pilot, not because a library can solve every heat-related problem, but because it can offer a free, nearby place to cool down, charge a phone, and get information. The decision should be judged by access, cost, and evidence from the pilot rather than by assumptions about who uses libraries.

2 Last summer, the branch tracked its evening visitors during four advisory days. Sign-in counts rose from 18 people at 4:30 p.m. to 47 people between 5 and 7 p.m.; 31 visitors used charging outlets, and staff gave transit or cooling-center information to 12 people. These records do not prove that longer hours prevent illness. They do show that people arrived after the usual closing time and used services connected to safety. A three-month pilot could test whether that pattern continues, while recording staffing and electricity costs.

3 Opponents of the pilot note that extending hours may require overtime pay and could draw fewer visitors on some evenings. That concern matters, so the city should publish weekly attendance and cost totals instead of calling the pilot a success based on one busy night. Still, rejecting the idea before testing it would treat uncertainty as evidence against it. The strongest next step is a limited trial with clear measures: evening attendance, service use, costs, and visitor feedback. Those measures would let the council compare the pilot's public benefit with its expense and make a revisable decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What recommendation does the author make, and what limit does the author place on that recommendation?

2. Which two details from paragraph 2 most strongly support the idea that people would use the library after its usual closing time? Explain what those details suggest.

3. Why does the author state that the records do not prove longer hours prevent illness? How does this statement affect the credibility of the argument?

4. How does the final list of measures help the council evaluate the pilot instead of simply deciding from one busy evening?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75-100 word recommendation to the city council about the library pilot. State your decision, use two specific details from the passage as evidence, and name at least one measure the city should track to evaluate the decision.

ANSWER KEY

Evidence Before Action

GRADE 12 · 12.P.EICC.2.d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's main recommendation, circle the details offered as evidence, and number the four measures proposed for judging the pilot. These marks will help you evaluate how the author builds a case. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What recommendation does the author make, and what limit does the author place on that recommendation?	**The author recommends a limited, three-month pilot that keeps the library open later on heat-advisory days. The author says the library cannot solve every heat-related problem.**
2	Which two details from paragraph 2 most strongly support the idea that people would use the library after its usual closing time? Explain what those details suggest.	**The sign-in count of 47 people between 5 and 7 p.m. and the 31 visitors who used charging outlets support the idea. They suggest that people arrived after the normal closing time and used needed services.**
3	Why does the author state that the records do not prove longer hours prevent illness? How does this statement affect the credibility of the argument?	**The records show attendance and service use, not whether illness was prevented. Admitting this limit makes the argument more credible because the author does not claim more than the evidence supports.**
4	How does the final list of measures help the council evaluate the pilot instead of simply deciding from one busy evening?	**The measures provide several criteria, evening attendance, service use, costs, and visitor feedback. They allow the council to compare public benefit and expense over time rather than relying on a single night.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

City council should approve a three-month extension of East Branch hours during heat advisories. The library recorded 47 visitors between 5 and 7 p.m., a period after its ordinary closing time, and 31 visitors used charging outlets. Those facts suggest that later access meets a real need, although they do not show that the program prevents illness. To judge the pilot fairly, the city should publish weekly staffing and electricity costs alongside attendance and service-use totals.

Accept recommendations that take either position when they use two accurate passage details and explain how those details support the decision. The response must identify at least one appropriate evaluation measure and stay within 75-100 words.