Who Shares the Path?

Use several sources to weigh a park decision.

5.C.8 "Use a variety of information resources to identify and evaluate issues that involve civic responsibility, individual rights, and the common good."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a statement about an individual right, circle a statement about a civic responsibility, and number two different information resources the council could use. These marks will help you weigh whose needs the decision affects.

A Decision at Cedar Park

1. At Cedar Park, walkers, wheelchair users, and bike riders share one paved path. Some families say bikes help them reach the playground without driving. Others worry about fast riders near people on foot. The town council must decide whether to keep bikes on the path. Council members want to protect each person's right to fair access to the park while making the path safe for everyone.

2. The parks office's posted rule says bike riders may use the path but must slow down and yield to people walking. Its report lists eight bike-related close calls reported last month. The report counts only events that someone told the office about. A bike club's online poll says 30 of its 36 members want bikes to stay. That poll does not include most park visitors.

3. At a council meeting, a wheelchair user describes how a rider passed too close to her chair. Her account explains one person's experience, not how often it happens. A nearby resident suggests painted slow zones at busy crossings. Council members could compare the rule, report, poll, and testimony before voting. Riders have a responsibility to follow path rules. Everyone benefits when the park remains welcoming and safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What can the posted rule tell the council that the parks office's report cannot? What can the report tell the council?

2. What does the bike club's poll show, and why should the council not use it alone to decide?

3. How could the wheelchair user's account help the council? What can it not tell the council?

4. What should the council do about bikes on the path? Use two resources from the passage to explain how your choice protects fair access and helps keep the path safe.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town is deciding whether to reserve one hour each week at its public pool for lap swimming. Name two different information resources you would seek, explain one limit of each, and suggest a choice that considers fair access, visitor responsibilities, and the common good.

ANSWER KEY

Who Shares the Path?

GRADE 5 · 5.C.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a statement about an individual right, circle a statement about a civic responsibility, and number two different information resources the council could use. These marks will help you weigh whose needs the decision affects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What can the posted rule tell the council that the parks office's report cannot? What can the report tell the council?	**The posted rule tells the council what riders must do. The report tells how many close calls were reported last month.**
2	What does the bike club's poll show, and why should the council not use it alone to decide?	**It shows that 30 of 36 bike club members want bikes to stay. It leaves out most park visitors, so it may not represent their views.**
3	How could the wheelchair user's account help the council? What can it not tell the council?	**It shows how a close pass affected one path user. It cannot show how often close passes happen.**
4	What should the council do about bikes on the path? Use two resources from the passage to explain how your choice protects fair access and helps keep the path safe.	**The council could keep bikes on the path and add painted slow zones. The posted rule already requires riders to slow down and yield, while the wheelchair user's account shows why more care is needed near others. This choice keeps the path open to riders and helps other visitors use it safely.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would check the pool's attendance records to see when it is busiest, but the numbers would not explain why people visit. I would also ask swimmers and families what they need, but their answers might leave out people who do not visit now. I would try a lap-swimming hour at a less busy time and keep other hours open to everyone. Swimmers should follow pool rules and share space so the pool stays safe and useful for the community.

For question 4 and Your Turn, accept other workable choices supported by the named resources. Look for a clear distinction between what a source shows and what it cannot show.