Before the Vote

Weigh sources before recommending a public decision

IS.2.5 "Use a variety of resources to take a position or recommend a course of action on a public issue relating to Indiana's past or present."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one claim for each side of the warehouse decision, circle the resource linked to each claim, and number two claims that need more evidence before a vote.

A Warehouse Beside the Creek

1. In a fictional Indiana county, a council must decide whether to approve a warehouse beside a creek. The proposed parking lot would cover land that stays wet in spring. The developer's application says the project could add jobs and shorten delivery trips for nearby stores, but it gives no independent estimate of either benefit. An Indiana Department of Natural Resources guide explains that wetlands can hold stormwater and filter pollutants before water reaches streams. That general science matters here, but it cannot show exactly what this particular site does or how much a redesign would cost.

2. The council also has a map from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory. It marks a possible wetland near the planned lot, but the inventory is not a final decision about where a regulated wetland begins. A county engineer's field notes report standing water on part of the property after two spring storms. Those observations offer a check on the map, though two visits cannot predict every season. The council has not yet received a site-specific wetland determination or a stormwater model. That gap limits what either resource can prove before a vote.

3. At a public meeting, one neighbor says her basement flooded twice during heavy rain and worries that more pavement will send water toward homes. Her account shows a community concern, not proof that this project would cause flooding. The developer suggests moving the parking lot uphill if the council allows a smaller building, but has not submitted a revised plan or cost estimate. Council members could request a wetland review and a stormwater study before voting. They must weigh possible jobs against flood risk, while checking whose claims rest on measurements and whose claims still need testing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could a council member use the wetlands inventory map without claiming it proves where a regulated wetland begins?

2. If you favor the warehouse for its possible economic benefits, which claim in the developer's application would you cite? What evidence would you request before relying on it?

3. Which two resources could support a call to delay the vote because of flooding concerns? Explain what each adds and one limit they share.

4. Which change proposed in the passage might address both development and flood concerns? What missing document would help the council judge whether the change is practical?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph recommending what the council should do next. Use at least three different resources from the passage, address one concern about your recommendation, and explain what evidence the council still needs.

Before the Vote

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one claim for each side of the warehouse decision, circle the resource linked to each claim, and number two claims that need more evidence before a vote. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a council member use the wetlands inventory map without claiming it proves where a regulated wetland begins?	**The map identifies a possible wetland near the lot. A site-specific review is needed to determine its boundaries and status.**
2	If you favor the warehouse for its possible economic benefits, which claim in the developer's application would you cite? What evidence would you request before relying on it?	**The application claims the project could add jobs or shorten delivery trips. Request an independent estimate of the claimed benefit.**
3	Which two resources could support a call to delay the vote because of flooding concerns? Explain what each adds and one limit they share.	**The DNR guide explains that wetlands can hold stormwater, while the county engineer's notes document standing water on this property. Neither establishes how the proposed project would affect flooding.**
4	Which change proposed in the passage might address both development and flood concerns? What missing document would help the council judge whether the change is practical?	**The developer suggests a smaller building with parking uphill. A revised plan and cost estimate would help the council judge whether it is practical.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend delaying the warehouse vote until the council receives a wetland review and stormwater study. The National Wetlands Inventory map marks a possible wetland, and the county engineer recorded standing water after two storms. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources guide explains why wetlands can matter for runoff, though these sources do not prove that the project would flood nearby homes. A delay could postpone jobs, a benefit raised in the developer's application. The council should request an independent jobs estimate and a revised plan to see whether moving the parking lot uphill is practical.

Accept other defensible positions when students accurately use at least three distinct resources, acknowledge a relevant concern, and identify evidence needed before a decision.