When Heat Hits

Compare responses to a community problem

S.9.4 "Examine how individuals and groups respond to social problems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Nia's response, circle the town's and transit agency's responses, and number one limit of each circled response. Use your marks to compare what individuals and groups can accomplish.

A Hot Week in Bellport

1. During a week of extreme heat in the fictional town of Bellport, the power failed in several apartment buildings. Without working fans or elevators, some older residents struggled to reach cool places. Nia, a tenant on the sixth floor, checked on neighbors and carried water upstairs. Her visits helped people who could not easily leave, but she could not lower the temperature in their apartments. A group of tenants made a list of residents who wanted help and shared it only with volunteers who agreed to keep the information private. Their plan organized visits while respecting neighbors' privacy.

2. The town government opened the library as a cooling center and posted its hours at bus stops. This gave residents a free indoor place to escape the heat, but the library closed at 8 p.m., while apartments stayed hot overnight. A local bus drivers' union asked the transit agency to add evening trips to the library. The agency added one trip but said it lacked drivers for more. The extra bus helped people without cars, yet the limited schedule still left some residents with no ride home. These choices show how resources shape what a group can do.

3. Meanwhile, the building owner hired an electrician to restore power, but repairs took two days. Tenants asked the owner to provide temporary fans and cover hotel rooms for residents with serious health risks. The owner offered bottled water, which did not provide a cool place to sleep, and did not offer rooms. Tenants then brought their request to a town council meeting, arguing that emergency housing support should be part of future heat plans. Council members agreed to review the idea, not to fund it immediately. Nia's visits met urgent needs, while the tenants' public request aimed to change how the town handles later emergencies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nia's response differ from the tenant group's response in the first paragraph?

2. How did the town government and the transit agency each help residents reach a cool place? What limited each response?

3. How did the building owner's response differ from what tenants requested for residents with serious health risks?

4. How was the council's response different from the change tenants sought?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a neighborhood's only grocery store closes, leaving some residents without an easy way to buy fresh food. In four sentences, describe one individual's response and one group's response, explain how each helps, and identify one limit of each response.

ANSWER KEY

When Heat Hits

HIGH SCHOOL · S.9.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Nia's response, circle the town's and transit agency's responses, and number one limit of each circled response. Use your marks to compare what individuals and groups can accomplish. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nia's response differ from the tenant group's response in the first paragraph?	**Nia personally checked on neighbors and carried water. The tenant group organized volunteers' visits using a list of residents who wanted help.**
2	How did the town government and the transit agency each help residents reach a cool place? What limited each response?	**The town opened the library as a cooling center, but it closed at 8 p.m. The transit agency added an evening bus trip, but the limited schedule left some residents without a ride home.**
3	How did the building owner's response differ from what tenants requested for residents with serious health risks?	**Tenants requested temporary fans and hotel rooms. The owner offered bottled water but no rooms, so residents still lacked a cool place to sleep.**
4	How was the council's response different from the change tenants sought?	**Tenants wanted emergency housing support in future heat plans. The council agreed only to review the idea and did not fund it immediately.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighbor could drive two households to a distant grocery store once a week, helping them buy fresh food. This would not help residents who need groceries on other days. A neighborhood group could organize a weekly produce pickup at a community center, bringing food closer to more households. The pickup might still miss residents who work during its hours.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that identify both a response and its limit. For Part 3, look for four sentences that distinguish an individual's action from a group's action and give a plausible benefit and limit for each.