Beyond the Proposal

Listen for purpose, perspective, and what remains unclear

11.1.L.2 "Students will actively listen in order to analyze and evaluate speakers' verbal and nonverbal messages by asking questions to clarify purpose and perspective."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Park's statements of purpose, circle descriptions of her voice or gestures, and number Noor's questions that clarify Park's purpose or perspective.

A Trial at the Library

(1) At a town library forum, director Lena Park addressed a proposal to keep the main branch open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays. "Last month, forty people signed a request for later hours," she said, tapping a folder of signatures. "Students need a quiet place after practice, and adults finishing late shifts need access to computers. Everyone should have a chance to use this place." She paused beside a poster that read "Thursday Trial" and faced the audience. "I am asking the board to test the change for six weeks, not approve it permanently." Her voice grew firmer on "test," while she held up six fingers.

(2) A student, Noor, raised her hand. "When you say this helps everyone, whose schedules did you check? Did you ask people who use the branch now, or only those who signed?" Park looked down at her notes before answering. "We asked the forty signers. We have not surveyed other patrons or staff yet." She folded the folder shut and added, "If staff cannot cover the shift without overtime, we should end the trial." Her lowered voice contrasted with the firm tone she had used to describe access. Several audience members nodded, but one librarian kept her arms crossed.

(3) Noor then asked, "Is your main goal to prove that later hours are affordable, or to find out who can actually use them?" Park answered, "Both matter, but my priority is learning whether the people locked out by our current schedule will come in." She glanced toward the librarians and added, "I also need staff to tell us what the extra hours would cost." The board chair said a vote on permanent hours would come after the six-week trial and a staff report. Noor wrote two notes: the proposal names a real access problem, but the signers alone cannot show how all patrons or employees would be affected.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Park's emphasis on "test" suggest about her purpose? Which of her statements supports your answer?

2. How does Noor's first question clarify whose perspectives Park has considered? What does Park's answer reveal?

3. How might Park's lowered voice when discussing staffing affect your evaluation of her message? Use one of her statements as evidence.

4. How does Noor's follow-up question clarify Park's main goal? What limitation should you still consider when evaluating Park's claim about access?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you can speak at the board's next meeting. Write two new questions for Park, one about how she would judge the trial's success and one about how staff views would shape her recommendation. Then explain in two sentences how her answers would help you evaluate her purpose or perspective.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Park's statements of purpose, circle descriptions of her voice or gestures, and number Noor's questions that clarify Park's purpose or perspective. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Park's emphasis on "test" suggest about her purpose? Which of her statements supports your answer?	**Park wants a temporary trial rather than permanent approval. She asks the board to test the change for six weeks.**
2	How does Noor's first question clarify whose perspectives Park has considered? What does Park's answer reveal?	**Noor asks whose schedules Park checked. Park has heard from the forty signers but has not surveyed other patrons or staff.**
3	How might Park's lowered voice when discussing staffing affect your evaluation of her message? Use one of her statements as evidence.	**Her lowered voice may signal caution about staffing. She says the trial should end if staff cannot cover the shift without overtime.**
4	How does Noor's follow-up question clarify Park's main goal? What limitation should you still consider when evaluating Park's claim about access?	**Park says her priority is finding out whether people excluded by current hours will visit. The signers alone cannot show how other patrons or employees would be affected.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

What number of new evening visitors would convince you to recommend permanent hours? If staff report that the added shift disrupts their schedules, how much weight will their concerns have in your recommendation? Her first answer would show whether she has a clear goal for increasing access. Her second would reveal whether staff experience could change her position.

Accept interpretations of vocal or physical cues that are framed as possibilities and supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for two distinct clarification questions and two sentences explaining how the answers would help evaluate Park's message.