Saturday at the Library

Read a community letter and judge how well it makes its case.

4.P.3.2.A "Determine an author's purpose and draw conclusions to evaluate how well the author's purpose was achieved."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells what the writer wants the council to do, circle two details that support that goal, and write a question mark beside one sentence that shows what the writer still needs to know.

Keep Our Library Open on Saturdays

1. On Saturday morning, I walked into the Maple Street Library and found every study table busy. A child practiced reading aloud to her grandfather. Two neighbors used a public computer to fill out forms. Our town council is thinking about closing the library on Saturdays to save money. I hope the council keeps the doors open, because Saturdays give many people a chance to use this shared place.

2. Some families cannot visit on school days because adults are at work and children are in class. On Saturdays, they can borrow books, ask a librarian for help, or use a computer without paying a fee. When I visited last week, I counted twelve people waiting when the doors opened. That line showed me that at least some neighbors plan their week around Saturday hours.

3. Keeping the library open costs money, and the council must think about that cost. I do not know how many people come on a usual Saturday or how much one day of service costs. Still, my visit suggests that closing on Saturdays would take away a useful choice for some families. Before voting, council members should compare the cost with how many residents use the library that day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the writer want the council to do? Which words make that goal clear?

2. How does the detail about families who cannot visit on school days help the writer make a case for Saturday hours?

3. Does the count of twelve people waiting show that the library is busy every Saturday? Explain.

4. How well does the writer make a case for Saturday hours? Name one helpful detail and one thing the writer still needs to know.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a council member. In three sentences, describe one new way to check the writer's case for Saturday hours, what you would learn, and how different results could affect your vote.

ANSWER KEY

Saturday at the Library

GRADE 4 · 4.P.3.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells what the writer wants the council to do, circle two details that support that goal, and write a question mark beside one sentence that shows what the writer still needs to know. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the writer want the council to do? Which words make that goal clear?	**The writer wants the council to keep the library open on Saturdays. The writer says, "I hope the council keeps the doors open."**
2	How does the detail about families who cannot visit on school days help the writer make a case for Saturday hours?	**It shows that Saturday hours give families a chance to use the library when work and school do not keep them away.**
3	Does the count of twelve people waiting show that the library is busy every Saturday? Explain.	**No. The writer counted people on one visit, so the count does not show what happens every Saturday.**
4	How well does the writer make a case for Saturday hours? Name one helpful detail and one thing the writer still needs to know.	**The case is partly convincing because twelve people were waiting when the doors opened. The writer still needs to know how many people visit on a usual Saturday.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the librarian to count Saturday visitors for one month. This would show whether the busy day the writer saw was typical. If many people visit, I would vote to keep Saturday hours, but if very few visit, I would look for another schedule.

Accept other passage details as evidence when students explain how those details support the writer's goal. For the open task, accept a practical way to gather more information and a decision that follows from the possible results.