Hours That Work

Read a letter to the library board and judge its case.

5.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 author's request, circle two details that support it, and box a sentence that shows a limit of the author's evidence. Use your marks to judge how convincing the letter is.

A Letter to the Library Board

1. Dear Maple Bend Library Board, please keep our library open two hours later on Saturdays. Last Saturday, I arrived at 2:45 with my little brother, but the doors closed at 3:00. He had time to choose one book, not to use the computers for his school project. Families who work or play sports earlier in the day could use that extra time, too.

2. To learn whether others faced the same problem, I asked 20 families at the school fair when they could visit. Fourteen said they would use the library after 3:00 on Saturdays. That small group does not speak for everyone in town, but it shows that some families want a later closing time. An extra two hours would give them more time to borrow books and use library resources.

3. Keeping the building open longer would require staff time and money. One option is to try the later closing time for four Saturdays and count how many people visit after 3:00. If few people come, the board could return to the old schedule. Please consider a short trial before deciding that the current hours work for everyone in Maple Bend.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does the author want the library board to do? Which words in the letter make that purpose clear?

2. How does the story about the author's brother help the author make a case for later hours?

3. Why might a four-Saturday trial help the author persuade the board?

4. How well does the letter make its case for later hours? Give one strong detail and one limit of its evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence reply as a library board member. Say what the letter persuades you to do, use two details from the letter to explain your choice, and suggest a way to learn more about the need for later hours besides counting visitors.

ANSWER KEY

Hours That Work

GRADE 5 · 5.P.3.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the author's request, circle two details that support it, and box a sentence that shows a limit of the author's evidence. Use your marks to judge how convincing the letter is. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does the author want the library board to do? Which words in the letter make that purpose clear?	**The author wants the board to keep the library open two hours later on Saturdays. The letter directly asks the board to do this in its first sentence.**
2	How does the story about the author's brother help the author make a case for later hours?	**It shows a specific problem with the current hours: the brother could choose a book but did not have time to use a computer for his project.**
3	Why might a four-Saturday trial help the author persuade the board?	**A trial lets the board count visitors after 3:00 before making a lasting change that would require staff time and money.**
4	How well does the letter make its case for later hours? Give one strong detail and one limit of its evidence.	**The letter makes a reasonable case because 14 of the 20 families asked said they would use later hours. Its evidence is limited because families at one school fair may not represent everyone in town.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Your report that 14 of 20 families would visit later persuades me to discuss a trial of longer Saturday hours. Since the change would require staff time and money, I would first ask library staff to estimate the added cost. I would also ask families at several places in town about their Saturday schedules.

Accept different judgments in question 4 if students support them with a passage detail and recognize a limit. For the reply, look for two accurate details and a way to gather information other than counting visitors.