A Plan That Listens

How different views can shape a civic solution

6.P.1.1.A "Analyze why the acknowledgement of different perspectives can contribute to civil discourse and solutions to civic issues."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two different concerns in the passage, circle two statements that show someone recognizing another person's concern, and number two parts of the plan that respond to those concerns.

One More Hour at the Center?

1. On Tuesday, the town council considered opening the community center until 9 p.m. on school nights. Several students wanted a safe place to finish group projects after the library closed. A neighbor, Ms. Ortiz, worried that cars leaving late would wake families on her street. The center's manager, Mr. Lee, supported more study time but said an extra hour would require staff pay. At first, a student called the neighbors "against kids." Ms. Ortiz replied that she cared about students, too, but needed quiet at night.

2. Before the discussion turned into an argument, council member Patel asked each speaker to repeat a concern they had heard from someone else. The student said, "Ms. Ortiz wants families to sleep without traffic noise. That matters." Ms. Ortiz answered, "Students need a safe place to work after school. I understand why they asked." Mr. Lee added that staff could cover one late evening without adding a new shift. No one had to change their mind about every detail. Still, speakers stopped using labels and began asking about times, costs, and traffic.

3. The group suggested a four-week trial on Wednesdays, when the library closed early. The center would stay open until 8 p.m., not 9 p.m. Students could work together, while the shorter hours limited late traffic and staff costs. The council asked the manager to track attendance and asked neighbors to report noise during the trial. After four weeks, members would review both reports before deciding whether to continue. The plan did not give anyone everything they wanted, but listening made a testable compromise possible without treating anyone's concern as unimportant.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the student's response to Ms. Ortiz help change the discussion?

2. Why did it matter that Ms. Ortiz recognized what students needed, even though she still wanted quiet?

3. How did taking both the students' and Mr. Lee's views seriously shape the trial plan?

4. Why will the council review both attendance and noise reports before making a final decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town is considering a weekend farmers market in a park. Some residents want fresh food nearby, while others worry about litter. Write four or five sentences that acknowledge both views, explain how this could keep the discussion respectful, and propose a plan that responds to both concerns.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.P.1.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two different concerns in the passage, circle two statements that show someone recognizing another person's concern, and number two parts of the plan that respond to those concerns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the student's response to Ms. Ortiz help change the discussion?	**The student recognized the need for quiet instead of labeling the neighbors. After speakers acknowledged other concerns, they began discussing times, costs, and traffic.**
2	Why did it matter that Ms. Ortiz recognized what students needed, even though she still wanted quiet?	**Recognizing the students' need for a safe work space kept that need in the discussion alongside her concern about noise.**
3	How did taking both the students' and Mr. Lee's views seriously shape the trial plan?	**The plan gave students one late evening to work together, while the shorter hours limited staff costs.**
4	Why will the council review both attendance and noise reports before making a final decision?	**Attendance shows whether students use the extra time, while noise reports show its effect on neighbors. Reviewing both helps the council weigh both concerns.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents who want the market would have a nearby place to buy fresh food. I also understand why others worry that trash could harm the park. Taking both concerns seriously can help people discuss a plan instead of blaming one another. The town could try the market for four Saturdays, provide bins, and check the park for litter before deciding whether to continue.

Accept answers that accurately connect acknowledgment to a more respectful discussion or a plan addressing multiple concerns. For Part 3, the proposed plan may differ from the sample if it responds to both views.