From Wrappers to Action

Use different perspectives to plan a fair response to litter.

6.P.1.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. 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 each person's concern, circle the evidence the council gathered, and number the meeting steps that helped the group make a decision.

A Plan for the School Gate

1. At Cedar Creek Middle School, students noticed snack wrappers near the school gate after dismissal. Rain could carry the wrappers into a storm drain that empties into a nearby creek. The student council wanted to act, but people disagreed about how. A student who walks home wanted more trash cans along the sidewalk. A custodian worried that extra cans would overflow unless someone emptied them. A neighbor said wrappers also came from a nearby store, not just students. Each view pointed to a different part of the problem.

2. At an open student council meeting, students agreed to listen without interrupting and to restate a person's concern before replying. They reviewed a week of notes: wrappers appeared most often by the gate after dismissal, and the nearest trash can was inside the locked school fence. Instead of blaming one group, they listed options: move a can outside, ask the store to add a bin, or organize a cleanup. They discussed who would empty each bin, then voted to propose a one-month trial of an outside can.

3. The council sent its proposal to the principal and invited the custodian and neighbor to review it. The principal could approve a trial, while the council could count wrappers each Friday to see whether it helped. Litter in this creek can travel through connected waterways and affect communities farther downstream. Many places around the world also struggle with plastic waste in waterways, though the best fix depends on local conditions. The class suggested sharing its weekly counts with a regional watershed group so other schools could compare solutions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might the neighbor's perspective change a plan that focuses only on students?

2. Why might restating a person's concern before replying help the council reach a decision?

3. Which two observations support trying a trash can outside the fence?

4. How could sharing the weekly counts help people beyond this school address litter?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town wants to keep a public park open later, but nearby residents worry about noise. Write four or five sentences that give two perspectives, name one fact to gather, describe a fair way to make a decision, and propose an action that considers both views.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · 6.P.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each person's concern, circle the evidence the council gathered, and number the meeting steps that helped the group make a decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might the neighbor's perspective change a plan that focuses only on students?	**The neighbor says some wrappers come from the nearby store, so the council could ask the store to help, perhaps by adding a bin.**
2	Why might restating a person's concern before replying help the council reach a decision?	**It helps members show they understand each concern before discussing options, rather than dismissing or blaming anyone.**
3	Which two observations support trying a trash can outside the fence?	**Wrappers appeared most often by the gate after dismissal, and the nearest trash can was inside the locked fence.**
4	How could sharing the weekly counts help people beyond this school address litter?	**A regional watershed group could share the counts so other schools could compare solutions for litter that can affect connected waterways.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Teens may want the park open later so they can play after school activities. Nearby residents may want quiet in the evening. The town could measure noise levels at different hours. At a public meeting, people could take turns speaking, then vote on a recommendation to the town council. The town could try closing the park at 8 p.m. for a month and review noise reports before making a final decision.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how listening, evidence, and a trial can improve the decision. For Part 3, accept different reasonable actions if the response includes both perspectives, a fact to gather, and a fair decision procedure.