The Bus Stop Debate

How listening to different views can shape a public decision

7.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 one concern from each group in the passage, then number two places where someone acknowledges another group's concern. Use your marks to see how listening changes the discussion.

Where Should the Bus Stop Go?

1. At a town meeting, neighbors discussed moving a bus stop from outside a grocery store to the public library two blocks away. The store owner said buses sometimes blocked the loading space used for deliveries. A rider who uses a wheelchair explained that the library sidewalk has a curb ramp, while the store stop does not. Several students said they use the current stop after school because it is close to a marked crosswalk. All three groups wanted a bus stop that people could reach safely, but they noticed different problems.

2. At first, the owner argued that moving the stop was the only answer. Then the rider described the missing curb ramp. "I had not considered how hard it is to board without one," the owner said. The rider replied that a move should not force students to cross a busy road without a marked crossing. A student recognized that delivery trucks need space, too. Instead of calling anyone selfish, the speakers asked where riders could board, students could cross, and trucks could unload safely.

3. The group suggested placing the stop near the library curb ramp and adding a marked crossing nearby, while keeping the store's loading space clear. City traffic staff would need to check whether the crossing could be added safely, and transit staff would need to check where a bus could stop. Some students still preferred the old location because the walk would be longer. The group included that concern in its written request instead of claiming everyone agreed. Their discussion gave decision-makers a plan to test and a clear account of who might be affected.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did the store owner learn from the rider, and how did acknowledging it change the discussion?

2. Why did the rider bring up the students' concern about crossing the road when discussing a move?

3. How did the student's response to the delivery problem help the group look for a solution?

4. Why did the group include the students' remaining concern in its written request?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your town is considering replacing a parking lot with a community garden. Nearby residents want more green space, but drivers worry about losing parking. Write 4 to 5 sentences that acknowledge both views, respond respectfully to one concern, and suggest a step toward a solution that considers both.

ANSWER KEY

The Bus Stop Debate

GRADE 7 · 7.P.1.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one concern from each group in the passage, then number two places where someone acknowledges another group's concern. Use your marks to see how listening changes the discussion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the store owner learn from the rider, and how did acknowledging it change the discussion?	**The owner learned that the store stop lacks a curb ramp, making boarding harder for the rider. Acknowledging this concern helped the group discuss a stop people could reach safely, rather than only the delivery problem.**
2	Why did the rider bring up the students' concern about crossing the road when discussing a move?	**The rider recognized that moving the stop could make students cross a busy road without a marked crossing. A new location needed to address their safety, too.**
3	How did the student's response to the delivery problem help the group look for a solution?	**The student acknowledged that trucks need loading space. This helped the group consider a location that kept the store's loading space clear.**
4	Why did the group include the students' remaining concern in its written request?	**Some students would have a longer walk and still preferred the old stop. Including that view gave decision-makers a more complete picture instead of falsely claiming everyone agreed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A community garden could give nearby residents a place to grow food and spend time outside. Drivers also have a fair concern because they use the parking lot. Before making a decision, the town could count how often the spaces are used and look for other nearby parking. Those findings could help residents discuss whether part of the lot could become a garden while some spaces remain.

Accept answers that accurately connect acknowledgment of a specific concern to a more respectful discussion or a solution that considers more than one group. For Part 3, the proposed step should consider both garden space and parking.