After the Rain

Listen to different views before choosing a civic solution.

7.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 Number two different views about the flooding, underline one detail that connects the local problem to a wider region or the world, and circle a step that helps people make a fair decision.

The Bus Stop Flood

1. Rain turned the sidewalk outside Cedar Middle School into a shallow pond. Students waiting for the bus stepped into the street to stay dry. Some students blamed plastic wrappers caught in a nearby storm drain. The custodian pointed out that leaves also blocked the grate, while a neighbor said the drain overflowed even after it had been cleared last month. These accounts matter: removing trash might help, but it may not solve flooding during heavy rain. The student council asked everyone to describe what they had seen before suggesting a fix.

2. At a council meeting, students agreed not to interrupt and to ask questions about claims, not attack speakers. Bus riders wanted a safer place to wait. The custodian worried that students might try to lift a heavy drain cover, which could be dangerous. A neighbor wanted the town to check whether the drain was large enough for heavy storms. The council compared photos taken after rain with maintenance records, then asked the town's public works staff to inspect the drain. Listening changed the choices on the table: students could collect litter without touching the grate.

3. After hearing the inspection report, the council could hold an open discussion, revise a proposal, and vote. A plan might place a covered trash bin by the bus stop and ask adults to clear leaves, while the town studies the drain's capacity. The council should record objections even if the plan wins a vote. Plastic that enters storm drains can travel through streams to rivers across a region; some may eventually reach the ocean, adding to a global pollution problem. A local cleanup and less single-use packaging address that wider risk.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the custodian's and neighbor's views show why picking up wrappers may not fully solve the flooding?

2. How could plastic from this local problem become a regional or global problem? Explain how one proposed action could reduce that risk.

3. Why should the council hear objections before voting and record them even if a plan wins?

4. What information did the council use to examine the flooding, and what question did it ask town staff to investigate?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town library may extend its hours during a heat wave, but its budget is tight. In four to five sentences, describe two different perspectives, information you would gather, a fair way to decide, and an action that addresses both perspectives.

ANSWER KEY

After the Rain

GRADE 7 · 7.P.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number two different views about the flooding, underline one detail that connects the local problem to a wider region or the world, and circle a step that helps people make a fair decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the custodian's and neighbor's views show why picking up wrappers may not fully solve the flooding?	**Leaves also block the grate, and the neighbor saw the drain overflow after it was cleared. The town may need to check the drain's capacity as well as remove litter.**
2	How could plastic from this local problem become a regional or global problem? Explain how one proposed action could reduce that risk.	**Plastic can move from storm drains through streams and regional rivers, and some may reach the ocean. Collecting litter or using less single-use packaging could keep plastic out of the water.**
3	Why should the council hear objections before voting and record them even if a plan wins?	**Objections may reveal safety concerns or parts of the problem the plan misses. Recording them lets the council consider those concerns when revising or carrying out the plan.**
4	What information did the council use to examine the flooding, and what question did it ask town staff to investigate?	**The council compared photos taken after rain with maintenance records and asked public works staff to inspect the drain. The inspection could help determine whether the drain can handle heavy storms.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Families may want longer hours so they can cool off, while library workers may worry about late shifts. I would ask how many people need evening space and what paid staffing would cost. At an open meeting, each group could speak without interruption before the town council votes. I would propose two later evenings with paid, voluntary shifts if the budget allows. This gives families more access without requiring workers to stay late.

Accept other reasonable explanations grounded in the passage. For Part 3, look for two distinct perspectives, useful information to gather, a fair decision process, and an action that considers both groups.