The Library Vote

Weigh evidence before choosing library hours

7.P.1.2 "Develop practices which demonstrate an understanding that social studies involves the evaluation of evidence. Investigate and propose answers to essential questions representing complex enduring issues across the social studies..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two pieces of evidence about library use, circle the two council members' interpretations, and put a question mark beside one detail that makes you wonder whose views are missing.

Which Day Should the Library Open?

1. At Cedar Creek Library, the council must decide whether to close on Mondays and open on Sundays instead. The library can pay staff for six days each week, so adding a day would require dropping another. The director's notebook shows 42 visitors on one Monday in April and 47 on the next. Those counts include people who entered for any reason, from returning books to using computers. The director argues that keeping Mondays protects a service people already use. Council members want evidence about who might use the library on Sundays.

2. At a Saturday craft workshop, a volunteer asked 20 adults whether they would prefer Sunday hours to Monday hours. Sixteen chose Sunday, and four chose Monday. Most workshop participants had brought children. One council member reads this result as a sign that Sunday hours would help families with busy weekdays. Another council member points to the Monday notebook and argues that changing days could leave regular Monday visitors without a place to study or use the internet. Both members speak about access, but they focus on different groups of people.

3. Before the vote, a librarian brings two notes from patrons. One patron writes, "I use the computers every Monday to apply for jobs." Another writes, "I work on Saturdays and could bring my children on Sundays." The librarian also lists the library's Monday programs: a homework club and a computer-help hour. The council has never opened this branch on a Sunday. Some members propose surveying people at the bus stop and school. Others suggest a one-month trial that swaps Monday for Sunday, then compares who uses the library.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the visitor counts support keeping Monday hours, and what do they not tell the council about Sunday hours?

2. Why might the workshop survey miss some residents' views about library hours?

3. How do the two patrons' notes support different choices about library hours?

4. A council member says, "Sixteen people chose Sunday in the survey, so at least sixteen people will visit each Sunday." What is the error in that reasoning?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a question the council could investigate before voting. Name one way to collect evidence that would help answer it, then explain how two possible findings might lead to different decisions.

ANSWER KEY

The Library Vote

GRADE 7 · 7.P.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two pieces of evidence about library use, circle the two council members' interpretations, and put a question mark beside one detail that makes you wonder whose views are missing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the visitor counts support keeping Monday hours, and what do they not tell the council about Sunday hours?	**The counts show that 42 and 47 people visited on the two Mondays recorded. They do not show how many people would visit on a Sunday.**
2	Why might the workshop survey miss some residents' views about library hours?	**It asked only adults at a Saturday craft workshop. Residents who did not attend, including people working that day, were not asked.**
3	How do the two patrons' notes support different choices about library hours?	**The job seeker's note supports keeping Monday computer access. The working parent's note supports opening on Sunday.**
4	A council member says, "Sixteen people chose Sunday in the survey, so at least sixteen people will visit each Sunday." What is the error in that reasoning?	**Choosing Sunday in a survey does not guarantee a visit. The survey recorded preferences, not Sunday attendance.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How many people need the library's computers on Mondays, and could they use them on another day? The council could ask Monday computer users about their schedules over several weeks. If many can come only on Mondays, the council might keep Monday hours. If most can use the computers on other days and many residents need Sunday access, it might switch days.

Accept other evidence-based interpretations that distinguish what the sources show from what they cannot establish. For Part 3, look for an investigable question, a relevant way to collect evidence, and two findings that could support different decisions.