After Hours?

Weigh evidence and perspectives in a town decision

7.P.1 "Apply critical thinking skills to address authentic civic issues. Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two different concerns about library hours. Circle two limits of the evidence, then number two steps the council plans to take before its final vote.

A Later Night at the Library

1. In the fictional town of Brookfield, the public library closes at 5 p.m. on weekdays. At a council meeting, student Maya asks for one late evening each week. She says teens who care for younger siblings after school cannot always visit before closing. Shop owner Mr. Chen worries that longer hours would raise costs and leave less money for new books. Both want the library to serve the town. Maya listens and repeats his concern before explaining why evening access matters to her.

2. To test the proposal, the council examines library entry counts by hour and a written estimate of extra staffing costs. The entry counts show how many people used the library during current hours, but they cannot show how many would come at night. Maya shares a survey of 30 classmates. A council member points out that classmates alone cannot represent every resident. She suggests asking workers, older adults, and families, then checking whether their answers match the staffing estimate and the library's budget.

3. The council does not vote that night. Instead, members agree to hold a public comment period, giving each speaker the same time, followed by a discussion in which members may ask questions. They will consider a six-week trial of one late evening and track visits and costs before a final vote. Mr. Chen suggests pausing one planned purchase of furniture to help pay for the trial, but a librarian asks whether that purchase is already required for safety. The council requests the purchase records before choosing a funding plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya's response to Mr. Chen help the council discuss the issue?

2. Choose one source of evidence in the passage. What is one limit of that source, and what else could the council check?

3. Why should the council check the purchase records before using Mr. Chen's funding idea?

4. How could the public comment rules and the six-week trial help the council make its final decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine residents disagree about adding a shelter to a bus stop near your school. In five sentences, explain two different concerns, name evidence you would gather and one limit of that evidence, and propose a fair way to decide plus a possible next step.

ANSWER KEY

After Hours?

GRADE 7 · 7.P.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two different concerns about library hours. Circle two limits of the evidence, then number two steps the council plans to take before its final vote. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya's response to Mr. Chen help the council discuss the issue?	**She acknowledges his concern about costs before explaining her need for evening access, so both concerns can be considered.**
2	Choose one source of evidence in the passage. What is one limit of that source, and what else could the council check?	**The entry counts cover only current hours, so the council could test a late evening and count visits. Alternatively, Maya's classmates do not represent all residents, so the council could ask other groups.**
3	Why should the council check the purchase records before using Mr. Chen's funding idea?	**The furniture purchase might be required for safety, so it may not be money the council can move to the trial.**
4	How could the public comment rules and the six-week trial help the council make its final decision?	**Equal speaking time lets residents share different views fairly. The trial would give the council evidence about visits and costs before it votes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bus riders may want shelter from rain, while wheelchair users may worry it could narrow the sidewalk. I would ask bus riders about their needs and measure the sidewalk's width. Riders' answers might not represent everyone who uses the sidewalk. At a public meeting, I would give each group equal speaking time before a vote. If measurements show enough clear space, I would propose a temporary shelter and ask the town to check access after installation.

Accept other passage-supported limits and checks in question 2. For the open task, look for two distinct concerns, a relevant evidence limit, a fair decision process, and a next step.