The Empty Lot

Use different sources and viewpoints to plan a public presentation.

7.P.4.2.C "Organize and create presentations or products using research from a variety of formats and encompassing different points of view."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline one useful detail from each source format. Circle the two different views in the interview, then number the details in the order you would present them to the town council.

A Decision in Cedar Bend

1. In the fictional town of Cedar Bend, the council is deciding whether to turn an empty lot beside the library into a small public garden. A one-page council report says the lot is owned by the town and has no buildings. It lists a proposed cost of $8,000 for soil, paths, and a water tap. The report also states that the town has $5,000 set aside for the project. The council must decide whether to find the remaining money before work can begin.

2. A recorded interview adds voices that do not appear in the report. Ms. Ortiz, who lives across the street, wants a garden where neighbors can grow food. She says volunteers from her block would help with planting. Mr. Chen, who uses the library after school, worries that a garden might take away space where students lock their bikes. He asks for bike racks near the library door. Neither speaker says how many people share these views, but each names a need that a plan could address.

3. A student club made a short online poll and shared its results in a printed flyer. Of the 40 students who answered, 26 supported a garden, 9 preferred more bike parking, and 5 wanted the lot left empty. The flyer does not say how the club chose respondents, so the results cannot stand for every student in town. The flyer also proposes placing garden beds beside new bike racks. This proposal offers a possible compromise, but the flyer gives no cost for the racks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which detail from the council report and which detail from the interview would you place together to explain why a garden might work on this lot?

2. How would you organize Ms. Ortiz's and Mr. Chen's views in a presentation about what the lot should provide?

3. What poll result would you include to show student support for a garden? What warning would you put beside it?

4. A council member asks whether the garden and bike-rack plan can be paid for. Which details from the report and flyer belong together in your answer, and what information is missing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a 65 to 85 word exhibit label for library visitors about the lot decision. Give it a title, use details from at least two source formats, present two different views, and end with one question visitors could discuss.

ANSWER KEY

The Empty Lot

GRADE 7 · 7.P.4.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline one useful detail from each source format. Circle the two different views in the interview, then number the details in the order you would present them to the town council. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which detail from the council report and which detail from the interview would you place together to explain why a garden might work on this lot?	**The report says the town owns the empty lot, and Ms. Ortiz says neighbors would help plant a garden there.**
2	How would you organize Ms. Ortiz's and Mr. Chen's views in a presentation about what the lot should provide?	**Present Ms. Ortiz's wish for a place to grow food beside Mr. Chen's concern about space for students' bikes.**
3	What poll result would you include to show student support for a garden? What warning would you put beside it?	**Include that 26 of 40 respondents supported a garden. Note that the flyer does not say how respondents were chosen, so the result may not represent all students.**
4	A council member asks whether the garden and bike-rack plan can be paid for. Which details from the report and flyer belong together in your answer, and what information is missing?	**The report estimates $8,000 for the garden and says $5,000 is set aside. The flyer proposes bike racks but gives no cost for them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Who Should Use the Lot? Cedar Bend's empty lot next to the library could become a garden. A council report lists $8,000 in project costs, but the town has set aside only $5,000. In a recorded interview, Ms. Ortiz says neighbors would help plant food. Mr. Chen worries about space for students' bikes. The flyer proposes adding bike racks beside garden beds. How could the town make room for both growing food and parking bikes?

Accept other accurate details and arrangements when students connect evidence to the stated purpose. The exhibit label must meet the word count, use at least two source formats, include two views, and end with a discussion question.