Room for Everyone

How different perspectives can shape a public decision

8.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 what each of the three people wants or worries about in paragraph 1. Number each underlined idea and the trial step in paragraph 3 that addresses it with the same number.

A Market on Main Street

1. On Saturday mornings, the town of Bellford considered closing one block of Main Street to cars for a weekly outdoor market. Maya, a student on the youth council, liked the idea because families could walk between stalls without crossing traffic. Mr. Chen, who owned a bookstore on that block, worried that customers who drove would not know where to park. A neighbor who used a wheelchair asked how she would reach the market if cars could not stop near its entrance. All three wanted a lively downtown, but each noticed a different problem.

2. At the council meeting, one speaker called parking complaints selfish. Maya paused the discussion and repeated Mr. Chen's concern: drivers needed a clear way to reach his store. She also repeated the neighbor's question about an accessible drop-off point. Mr. Chen said he supported the market if customers could find parking nearby. Instead of voting at once, the council asked volunteers to check an open public lot two blocks away and a curb beside the market where a short drop-off could be allowed.

3. Volunteers confirmed that the lot was open on Saturdays and that the curb had room for a marked drop-off space. The council approved a one-month trial: the block would close to through traffic during market hours, signs would direct drivers to the lot, and the drop-off space would stay open. The neighbor said the space would help her get close to the stalls. Mr. Chen agreed to the trial because customers could park nearby and visit his bookstore. The council planned to ask market visitors and shopkeepers about access before deciding whether to continue.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya's response to the parking complaint help the council move toward a solution?

2. Why was calling parking complaints selfish less helpful than listening to Mr. Chen?

3. How did the trial consider both Maya's goal and Mr. Chen's concern?

4. Why did the drop-off space make the trial work for more people than parking signs alone would?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your town library may shorten weekend hours to save money. In five or six sentences, name two groups with different needs, propose a solution that considers both, and explain how acknowledging both needs could help people discuss the plan respectfully.

ANSWER KEY

Room for Everyone

GRADE 8 · 8.P.1.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what each of the three people wants or worries about in paragraph 1. Number each underlined idea and the trial step in paragraph 3 that addresses it with the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya's response to the parking complaint help the council move toward a solution?	**Maya restated Mr. Chen's concern instead of dismissing it. The council then checked whether nearby parking was available.**
2	Why was calling parking complaints selfish less helpful than listening to Mr. Chen?	**The label dismissed his concern, while listening showed the council that drivers needed a clear place to park.**
3	How did the trial consider both Maya's goal and Mr. Chen's concern?	**Closing the block to through traffic gave families space to walk, while signs directed driving customers to nearby parking.**
4	Why did the drop-off space make the trial work for more people than parking signs alone would?	**Parking signs helped drivers find the lot, but the drop-off space also helped the neighbor using a wheelchair get close to the stalls.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Library staff may need shorter weekend shifts, while students may need weekend time to study. Both needs matter to the community. The library could close one hour earlier on Saturday and Sunday instead of closing for the whole weekend. That would reduce staffing hours while still giving students some weekend study time. Acknowledging both needs could help people discuss the trade-off without blaming either group.

Accept other explanations grounded in the passage that connect listening to a specific part of the trial. For the open task, look for two distinct needs, a workable proposal that considers both, and a clear link to respectful discussion.