Hours Under Review

Weigh evidence before recommending a public decision.

8.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, circle one claim about what the board should do, and number two limits or missing details in the evidence. Use your marks to test whether the claim follows from the evidence.

When Should the Library Open?

1. In the fictional town of Briar Glen, the library board must decide whether to extend Saturday hours. Its essential question is: How should a town share a limited public service fairly? A library report counts 84 visits during four open hours on a recent Saturday and 100 visits during eight open hours on the following Wednesday. The report records visits, not how long each person stayed or why they came. Board member Ms. Ortiz argues that keeping Saturday hours matters to people who cannot visit on weekdays.

2. A volunteer counted 18 people arriving after closing time over two Saturdays and wrote down each arrival, but did not ask why anyone came. Board member Mr. Hale says the library should focus on Wednesdays because 100 visits exceed 84. At a public meeting, one resident says weekend access serves workers; another says weekday visits justify more weekday funding. Neither visit count shows who would use later Saturday hours. A survey of 30 library cardholders found that 21 wanted longer Saturday hours, although people without cards were not surveyed.

3. Adding four Saturday hours for one month would cost $160 in staff pay, according to the library director. The board has $200 this month for any extra library hours, so it must weigh that choice against extending a weekday. The director notes that some visitors use computers while others borrow books, but the visit counts do not distinguish these purposes. Before voting, board members can ask whose needs the available records miss and what other information would test each proposal. Their decision will affect people with different schedules.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two pieces of evidence could support longer Saturday hours? Explain what each shows.

2. What assumption does Mr. Hale make when he compares the visit totals? Which detail challenges it?

3. How could Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Hale interpret the visit totals differently?

4. What gap in the survey makes it weak evidence for what all town residents want?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In four sentences, write a note to the board: ask a new supporting question, explain how you would gather evidence, recommend a one-month choice using passage evidence, and name a limit that could change your view.

ANSWER KEY

Hours Under Review

GRADE 8 · 8.P.1.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two pieces of evidence, circle one claim about what the board should do, and number two limits or missing details in the evidence. Use your marks to test whether the claim follows from the evidence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two pieces of evidence could support longer Saturday hours? Explain what each shows.	**The volunteer recorded 18 arrivals after closing over two Saturdays, suggesting some people came when the library was shut. In the survey, 21 of 30 cardholders wanted longer Saturday hours.**
2	What assumption does Mr. Hale make when he compares the visit totals? Which detail challenges it?	**He assumes the totals are directly comparable as measures of demand. The library was open four hours on Saturday but eight hours on Wednesday.**
3	How could Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Hale interpret the visit totals differently?	**Ms. Ortiz could see 84 Saturday visits in just four hours as a reason to protect weekend access. Mr. Hale sees the higher Wednesday total of 100 as a reason to focus on weekdays.**
4	What gap in the survey makes it weak evidence for what all town residents want?	**Only library cardholders were surveyed, so the results leave out residents without cards.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How many residents without library cards would use later Saturday hours? I would ask residents at the bus stop and community center about their schedules. I would try four extra Saturday hours for one month because the volunteer recorded 18 arrivals after closing over two Saturdays. Because the tally does not show why those people came, I would count visits during the trial before recommending a permanent change.

Accept different supported interpretations of the evidence. For the note, look for a new, testable question, a way to gather relevant evidence, a feasible one-month choice, and a specific limit on the evidence.