After Six

Weigh evidence and perspectives in a local decision

E.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. Evaluate the impact of perspectives, civil discourse..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence about library use and costs, circle claims that go beyond the evidence, and number two concerns the council must weigh. Use your marks to judge how the council should proceed.

Should the Library Stay Open Later?

1. In Cedar Bend, the public library closes at 6 p.m. on weekdays. At a public meeting, students who use its computers asked for later hours to finish applications and homework. A parent who works evenings said the building offers a quiet place while relatives arrange rides. Library employees supported better access but worried about working alone after dark. A nearby resident said later hours might bring more traffic to a narrow street. Everyone agreed that residents need safe access to library services, but they disagreed about whether keeping the building open later was the best way to provide it.

2. The library director shared entry counts from three Tuesdays: an average of 42 visits between 5 and 6 p.m., compared with 18 between 3 and 4 p.m. Those counts show use before closing, not how many people would come after 6. An online petition for later hours had 130 signatures, but signers did not have to say whether they lived in Cedar Bend. A staff representative estimated that two extra hours would require another paid shift; the council had not yet received a cost estimate. The resident's traffic concern also lacked a recent count of cars on the street.

3. At the next meeting, one speaker claimed the petition proved that most residents wanted later hours. Another replied that the petition showed interest, not a majority. Rather than vote on permanent hours immediately, the council invited public comments and asked staff for a written cost estimate and an evening traffic count. Members proposed a six-week trial with two staff members present on Tuesdays, then a public review of visits, costs, and complaints. A trial would not settle every concern: people who cannot come on Tuesdays might still be left out. The council planned to collect comments from those residents too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What goal do the students and library employees share, and what concern makes their views on later hours different?

2. How do the entry counts support the request for later hours, and what can they not show?

3. Why does the petition not prove that most Cedar Bend residents want later hours?

4. How could the proposed trial help the council weigh two concerns, and whose needs might it still miss?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose a workable way to improve access to library services that differs from the Tuesday evening trial. In five sentences, name two affected groups, identify new evidence and how you would check it, explain a trade-off, and describe a public decision and a way to judge whether your strategy worked.

After Six

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline evidence about library use and costs, circle claims that go beyond the evidence, and number two concerns the council must weigh. Use your marks to judge how the council should proceed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What goal do the students and library employees share, and what concern makes their views on later hours different?	**Both want better access to library services. Employees also worry about working alone after dark.**
2	How do the entry counts support the request for later hours, and what can they not show?	**The counts show more visits from 5 to 6 p.m. than from 3 to 4 p.m. on the three Tuesdays counted. They cannot show how many people would visit after 6.**
3	Why does the petition not prove that most Cedar Bend residents want later hours?	**It has 130 signatures, but signers did not have to confirm that they lived in Cedar Bend. It does not establish the views of most residents.**
4	How could the proposed trial help the council weigh two concerns, and whose needs might it still miss?	**Two staff members would address the concern about working alone, and reviewing complaints could reveal traffic problems. A Tuesday-only trial might miss the needs of people who cannot visit on Tuesdays.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would propose a supervised computer room at the community center on two evenings each week. I would ask students and library employees what equipment and support the room would need. I would survey potential users on paper and online, check whether respondents live in town, and compare their answers with attendance records once the room opens. The room could reduce trips to the library's narrow street, but staffing and equipment would cost money. After a public hearing, the council could approve a short trial and compare attendance, costs, and user comments with its goals.

Accept other evidence-based interpretations that distinguish what the passage establishes from what remains uncertain. For Part 3, accept a different feasible strategy if it addresses every requested element in five sentences.