Counting Cool Visits

Use visit data to test a public claim.

E.P.3.1.B "Analyze information from visual, oral, digital, and interactive texts (e.g., maps, charts, images, political cartoons, videos, artwork) in order to draw conclusions and defend arguments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the mayor's claim, circle numbers that help you test it, and number two reasons the numbers may not tell the whole story.

Did the Shuttle Make a Difference?

1. During a heat advisory, a cooling center offers a public place to escape dangerous temperatures. In the fictional city of Bayford, officials counted visits to three centers on one Saturday in July 2025 and another in July 2026. Both days had heat advisories. A free shuttle began stopping outside Harbor Center before the 2026 count.

2. The table reports visits recorded at each entrance, not the number of different people served. Someone who left and returned could be counted twice. The mayor's flyer claims, "The shuttle transformed access to cooling centers." A resident asks whether the totals reveal who rode the shuttle. She also wonders which center changed most.

COOLING CENTER VISITS ON TWO JULY SATURDAYS

Center	2025 visits	2026 visits
Harbor	38	72
Hilltop	44	45
Oak	51	57

3. The flyer's message is a conclusion, not another measurement. To judge it, readers should compare the centers, consider what a visit count measures, and ask what changed between the two dates. Both Saturdays had heat advisories, but they might have differed in temperature, publicity, or regular bus service.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which center had the largest increase in visits? Compare its increase with the other two centers.

2. Does the table prove the mayor's claim? Use one number from the table and one limit of the data to defend your answer.

3. An official says Harbor was the most visited center in both years. Is that accurate? Use the table to explain.

4. What could officials measure on several more dates to test whether the shuttle increased access, rather than simply arrived before a rise in visits?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 90 word note to city council recommending a one-month shuttle pilot at either Hilltop or Oak. Compare the two centers' visits in both years, explain why the counts cannot prove a shuttle would increase access, and name one measurement to collect during the pilot.

ANSWER KEY

Counting Cool Visits

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the mayor's claim, circle numbers that help you test it, and number two reasons the numbers may not tell the whole story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which center had the largest increase in visits? Compare its increase with the other two centers.	**Harbor increased by 34 visits, compared with 1 at Hilltop and 6 at Oak.**
2	Does the table prove the mayor's claim? Use one number from the table and one limit of the data to defend your answer.	**No. Harbor rose from 38 to 72 visits, but the counts do not show whether those visitors rode the shuttle.**
3	An official says Harbor was the most visited center in both years. Is that accurate? Use the table to explain.	**No. Oak had the most visits in 2025, with 51. Harbor had the most in 2026, with 72.**
4	What could officials measure on several more dates to test whether the shuttle increased access, rather than simply arrived before a rise in visits?	**They could record how visitors traveled and compare visits on several similar days before and after shuttle service began.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend a one-month shuttle pilot at Oak. Oak recorded 51 visits in 2025 and 57 in 2026, compared with Hilltop's 44 and 45. Oak had more visits on both dates, so a pilot there could serve a busy center. Still, these counts do not show how many visitors lack transportation or whether a shuttle would help them. During the pilot, ask visitors how they arrived and whether they would have come without the shuttle.

Accept either pilot site if the note compares both years accurately, acknowledges a limit of visit counts, and proposes a relevant measurement. In question 2, students may cite other plausible differences between the Saturdays.