Whose Stop, Whose Say?

Deliberate with neighbors to shape a community decision.

MWH.P.1.1.B "Engage in a range of deliberative and democratic processes to develop strategies to address authentic, real-world problems in community and out-of-school contexts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline proposed changes, circle limits or risks, and number the steps the group uses to reach and review its decision.

A Safer Place to Wait

1. At the Cedar Street bus stop, riders wait beside a busy road after dark. Several neighbors ask the town to improve safety, but they disagree about what should change. Teen riders want a shelter with lighting. A shop owner worries that bright lights might shine into upstairs apartments. An older rider says the curb is hard to reach with a walker. The neighborhood council cannot order construction, but it can recommend a plan to the transit agency and the town. Its chair invites riders, nearby residents, business owners, and agency staff to a public meeting, with phone comments accepted before the meeting.

2. Before proposing a fix, the chair reads each comment aloud without naming the writer. A transit worker explains that the agency can move the shelter but cannot rebuild the curb, which belongs to the town. Participants agree to let each speaker finish and to ask questions before challenging an idea. One rider suggests placing a shielded lamp inside the shelter to limit light spilling toward homes. A resident suggests moving the shelter nearer the crosswalk, where the curb is lower. The older rider points out that a lower curb is not necessarily an accessible curb. The group requests a town accessibility review before deciding where the shelter should go.

3. At a second meeting, town staff report that a curb ramp near the crosswalk could be built next spring if the town approves funding. The council considers two plans: move the shelter now, or keep it in place until a ramp and safer crossing are ready. Members discuss the risk of moving riders to an unfinished crossing. After public comment, they vote to recommend a shielded lamp now and a shelter move only after the ramp and crossing pass an accessibility review. They record the vote and dissenting concerns in public minutes. In six months, the council will ask riders whether the lighting improved their wait.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the shielded lamp address concerns raised by two different groups?

2. Why does the group request an accessibility review before deciding to move the shelter?

3. How does the council include people who cannot attend or who disagree with its final recommendation?

4. Why does the council recommend a lamp now but delay moving the shelter? How will it check the immediate change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community issue other than bus stops. In one paragraph, name two affected groups, describe a way to hear people who cannot attend a meeting, weigh two possible strategies, and explain how a group would decide and check its choice.

Whose Stop, Whose Say?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline proposed changes, circle limits or risks, and number the steps the group uses to reach and review its decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the shielded lamp address concerns raised by two different groups?	**It could light the shelter for riders while limiting light that spills toward nearby homes.**
2	Why does the group request an accessibility review before deciding to move the shelter?	**The lower curb near the crosswalk may not be accessible, and the town is responsible for curb work.**
3	How does the council include people who cannot attend or who disagree with its final recommendation?	**It accepts phone comments before the meeting, allows public comment, and records dissenting concerns in public minutes.**
4	Why does the council recommend a lamp now but delay moving the shelter? How will it check the immediate change?	**Moving riders before the ramp and safer crossing are ready could create a risk. In six months, the council will ask riders whether the lighting improved their wait.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Weekend litter has become a problem at our neighborhood park. Park visitors want cleaner paths, while nearby residents worry about the cost of more trash pickups. The neighborhood group could collect comments at the library from people who cannot attend its meeting. It could ask the parks department to add bins or organize volunteer cleanups. Bins might help every day but cost money to empty; cleanups cost less but happen less often. After hearing the department's cost estimate, the group would vote on a recommendation. It would count litter on the paths four weeks later.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of the tradeoffs and decision process. For the open task, look for two affected groups, an inclusive way to gather input, a comparison of strategies, a decision process, and a way to check the result.