A Place to Wait

Weighing evidence and viewpoints in a community decision

MWH.P.1.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. Evaluate the impact of perspectives, civil discourse, and democratic principles on addressing civic issues..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one piece of evidence and one limit of that evidence, circle two different viewpoints, and number two steps that let residents shape the council's decision. Use your marks to trace how public discussion can lead to an informed choice.

Where Should the Shelter Go?

1. On a July afternoon in Alder Creek, a fictional town, riders wait at the Main Street bus stop beside a wide strip of pavement with no shade. A neighborhood group asks the town council to install a shelter. Riders who work evening shifts want protection from heat and rain, while a nearby shop owner worries that a shelter could block the storefront and reduce sidewalk space. The transit agency reports that this stop has frequent boardings, but its count covers only one weekday. That limited count helps identify demand, yet it cannot show how many riders wait on weekends or during heat waves.

2. At an open council meeting, the chair gives each speaker the same two-minute limit and asks participants to challenge claims rather than attack people. One rider describes missing work after leaving the stop to find shade; the shop owner proposes moving the shelter farther down the block. A disability advocate asks whether either location would leave enough clear sidewalk for wheelchair users. Council members request measurements of sidewalk width, a week of boarding counts, and comments from riders who cannot attend evening meetings. The chair posts a written summary so residents can check whether their concerns were represented accurately.

3. After reviewing the new information, the council could compare two shelter sites at a public meeting rather than treat the first request as the only option. It could approve a trial shelter at the site that meets access rules, then ask the transit agency to track use and gather rider feedback during hot and rainy days. The neighborhood group could help distribute surveys, but it cannot approve spending or waive access requirements. If the trial shows a blocked path or poor use, the council could revise the site. This process links public input, accountable decisions, and evidence gathered after action.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the transit agency's first boarding count not enough to decide whether to build a shelter? Name one piece of information the council requests that could improve the decision.

2. How does the shop owner's proposed location respond to one concern, and whose concern would still need to be checked?

3. Which two meeting practices help residents participate fairly or disagree civilly? Explain how each helps.

4. Compare what the neighborhood group and the council could do after a trial shelter is installed. How could the trial results affect the council's next decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a community issue other than bus shelters. In 5 to 6 sentences, explain two perspectives, name useful evidence and one limit of it, propose a fair public discussion, and describe one resident action, one government action, and a way to check the results.

ANSWER KEY

A Place to Wait

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.P.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one piece of evidence and one limit of that evidence, circle two different viewpoints, and number two steps that let residents shape the council's decision. Use your marks to trace how public discussion can lead to an informed choice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the transit agency's first boarding count not enough to decide whether to build a shelter? Name one piece of information the council requests that could improve the decision.	**The count covers only one weekday, so it misses other travel patterns. A week of boarding counts would provide more information.**
2	How does the shop owner's proposed location respond to one concern, and whose concern would still need to be checked?	**Moving the shelter could keep it from blocking the storefront. The council would still need to check the disability advocate's concern about clear sidewalk space.**
3	Which two meeting practices help residents participate fairly or disagree civilly? Explain how each helps.	**The same two-minute limit gives speakers equal time. Asking people to challenge claims rather than attack people keeps disagreement focused on the issue.**
4	Compare what the neighborhood group and the council could do after a trial shelter is installed. How could the trial results affect the council's next decision?	**The group could distribute surveys, while the council could revise the shelter site. Reports of a blocked path or poor use could lead the council to change its decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my neighborhood, stormwater pools at a corner after heavy rain. Pedestrians want a safer crossing, while nearby businesses worry that construction would block customers. Residents' photos could document flooding, but photos from one storm would not show how often it happens. At an accessible public meeting, the city could hear both groups and share drainage inspections before comparing fixes. Residents could report flooded dates, and the city could clear blocked drains or fund repairs after checking their condition. The city could compare reports before and after the work and ask pedestrians whether crossing feels safer.

Accept other passage-supported examples of fair participation, including collecting comments from people who cannot attend the meeting. For the open task, look for distinct perspectives, a stated evidence limit, a fair deliberative process, feasible actions, and a check on results.