Two Stops, One Vote

Weighing perspectives in a public decision

OKH.P.1.1.A "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 the different views about the bus stops, circle actions that help people discuss the issue respectfully, and number two ways residents can take part in the decision.

A Stop for Whom?

1. At a public meeting in Cedar Glen, the city council considered moving the Route 4 bus stop from outside the health clinic to the supermarket two blocks away. Store workers said a stop near their jobs would shorten walks after late shifts. Clinic patients, including people with limited mobility, said the move could make medical visits harder. The transit manager noted that adding a second stop might help both groups but could slow the route for riders farther away. The council had to decide whose trips would change and how to hear from residents who could not attend a weeknight meeting.

2. During the meeting, one speaker called opponents selfish. The chair asked speakers to address the plan rather than insult one another and gave each person two minutes. A worker then described waiting beside a busy road at night; a patient explained why walking two blocks with a cane was difficult. Instead of arguing about whose need mattered more, council members asked for information about sidewalk access, lighting, and possible travel delays. The chair invited written comments and arranged an interpreter for a second meeting, so people who could not speak that night had another way to be heard.

3. Before voting, the council posted both meeting notices and the transit manager's report at the library and online. The report found that a second stop would add about one minute to each Route 4 trip. Some riders still opposed the delay, while others valued access to both destinations. Council members explained their reasons in public, then voted to test two stops for three months rather than move the original stop immediately. They agreed to review rider comments and on-time records after the test. The vote settled the trial, not every disagreement, and the review gave residents a way to challenge its results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How would moving the stop to the supermarket affect store workers and clinic patients differently?

2. How did the chair's response to the insult help the council consider the issue?

3. Choose any two actions from the passage that broadened participation. How did each help people be heard?

4. Why might testing two stops for three months address competing concerns better than moving the clinic stop immediately?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school board is considering a rule that would keep phones put away during lunch. In one paragraph, explain two different perspectives, propose one civil-discourse practice and one democratic way to include people in the decision, and predict how those choices could affect the result.

Two Stops, One Vote

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the different views about the bus stops, circle actions that help people discuss the issue respectfully, and number two ways residents can take part in the decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How would moving the stop to the supermarket affect store workers and clinic patients differently?	**It would shorten store workers' walks after late shifts but make clinic visits harder for patients, especially those with limited mobility.**
2	How did the chair's response to the insult help the council consider the issue?	**The chair redirected speakers to the plan rather than personal attacks, allowing workers' safety concerns and patients' access concerns to be heard.**
3	Choose any two actions from the passage that broadened participation. How did each help people be heard?	**Inviting written comments let people who could not speak at the meeting share their views. Arranging an interpreter for a second meeting helped residents who needed language support take part.**
4	Why might testing two stops for three months address competing concerns better than moving the clinic stop immediately?	**The trial keeps access to the clinic while adding access to the supermarket. Reviewing rider comments and on-time records lets the council assess whether the added stop's roughly one-minute delay is acceptable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some students want to check family messages at lunch, while others think putting phones away would make conversations easier. At a public forum, a moderator could ask speakers to respond to ideas without insulting classmates. The board could also collect anonymous student comments and share a summary before voting. These steps might reveal support for fewer phones alongside a need to handle urgent family messages. The board could then consider a rule with a clear exception for emergencies. Hearing both views would help members explain why their decision is fair.

For question 3, also accept posting notices or the report, holding a second meeting, or explaining reasons publicly when the student accurately explains how the chosen actions support participation. For the open task, accept other plausible perspectives and procedures if the response explains their likely effect on the decision.