Hours for Everyone

Deliberate, recommend, and review a community solution

OKH.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 the people whose views are considered, circle the tests used to compare ideas, and number the steps from public meeting to final review.

Who Decides When the Library Closes?

1. At a neighborhood listening session, high school students described a problem: the public library closed at 5 p.m. on weekdays, before many students finished sports or jobs. The library director explained that longer hours required paid staff and that the current budget could not cover every evening. Parents wanted quiet study space, while a nearby resident worried that later closing might bring more traffic to the block. Rather than asking the director to decide alone, students invited library workers, residents, and other patrons to a public meeting. They posted the meeting time at the library and offered a way to submit written comments.

2. One proposal kept the library open until 8 p.m. every weekday. Another proposed a six-week trial on Tuesdays and Thursdays, using an unspent staffing allotment the director identified. A third proposed a student-run study room, but staff noted that volunteers could not supervise the whole building or handle library services. A student facilitator asked speakers to name both a benefit and a drawback of each idea. The group compared the options using cost, access for people with different schedules, and effects on neighbors. Written comments were read aloud without names so people who could not attend were heard.

3. After discussion, participants used paper ballots to choose which plan to recommend to the library board. The six-week trial won, though several patrons preferred five evenings because their work shifts changed. The group included that concern in its report instead of hiding it. The report asked the board to approve the trial, keep the building staffed, and publish closing-time and visitor-count records for each trial night. At the end of six weeks, the board would invite new comments before deciding whether to continue, change, or end the schedule. The ballot shaped a recommendation, not a binding decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the group make room for people who could not attend the meeting to take part?

2. Using the group's tests, explain one trade-off between opening every weekday evening and trying two evenings for six weeks.

3. Why did the group include the preference for five evenings in its report after the trial won the ballot?

4. How would the plan give the library board evidence and public input before it made a longer-term decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A public park's trash bins overflow on weekends. Write one paragraph that proposes two possible strategies, explains how you would hear affected people and choose a recommendation, names the public office that should receive it, and describes one way to check whether the chosen plan works.

ANSWER KEY

Hours for Everyone

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.P.1.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the people whose views are considered, circle the tests used to compare ideas, and number the steps from public meeting to final review. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the group make room for people who could not attend the meeting to take part?	**They accepted written comments and read them aloud without names at the meeting.**
2	Using the group's tests, explain one trade-off between opening every weekday evening and trying two evenings for six weeks.	**Every weekday evening would give more people access, but the budget could not cover every evening. The two-evening trial used an available staffing allotment, but it would not serve patrons who needed other nights.**
3	Why did the group include the preference for five evenings in its report after the trial won the ballot?	**The report let the board consider the needs of patrons with changing work shifts, even though their preferred plan did not win.**
4	How would the plan give the library board evidence and public input before it made a longer-term decision?	**The board would receive closing-time and visitor-count records from each trial night and invite new comments after six weeks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city could add a weekend trash pickup or place more bins near the busiest park entrances. I would ask park users, nearby residents, and cleanup workers for comments at the park and online. At a public meeting, we could compare cost, worker time, and how well each option serves different parts of the park, then vote on a recommendation. We would send the recommendation and any concerns raised by the group to the city parks department. For the next month, workers could record how often bins overflow on weekends.

Accept other passage-supported trade-offs and explanations of how the process includes people whose preferred plan did not win. For the open task, look for two distinct strategies, public input, a fair choice process, an appropriate public office, and a measurable check.