A Better Bus Stop

Weigh perspectives, evidence, and public action

OKH.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 two competing concerns, circle one source of evidence and its limitation, and number two actions the group plans to take together to trace how discussion becomes a plan.

Where Should the Shelter Go?

1. At a neighborhood meeting, residents consider whether to add a shelter to the bus stop outside a grocery store. Riders describe waiting in rain and summer heat. A store owner worries that a shelter could block the loading area used by delivery trucks. A student notes that a narrow sidewalk might leave little room for wheelchair users if a shelter is placed carelessly. No speaker has to abandon a concern to be civil. Instead, participants restate an opposing view fairly and ask what evidence would show whether a proposed location protects access and keeps deliveries moving.

2. Before recommending a design, the group gathers information from several sources. A transit agency's boarding counts document use of the stop, but the counts do not show where people stand or how much space deliveries require. Riders record waiting conditions on several days, while the store owner shares delivery times. The group asks the city transportation office to measure sidewalk width and check accessibility requirements; personal impressions alone cannot settle those questions. Members agree to identify who collected each piece of evidence, when it was collected, and what it cannot establish before using it to argue for a plan.

3. At a public workshop, participants compare two possible shelter sites instead of treating the choice as shelter or no shelter. Riders favor the site closest to the bus door, while the owner favors the site farther from the loading area. After hearing both sides, the group asks the city to test both layouts against sidewalk access rules and delivery needs. Members submit a joint request for measurements, then plan to speak at a transit board meeting, where officials can explain funding and authority. A show of hands reveals preferences, but it cannot replace an accessibility check or decide whether the city may build on that land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could fairly restating the store owner's concern help the group choose a shelter site?

2. What do the boarding counts help the group understand, and what can they not show?

3. Why does the group ask the city transportation office to measure the sidewalk instead of relying on personal impressions?

4. Compare one action taken by an individual or one group of stakeholders with a joint action. How could both help officials make a decision?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your public library is considering Sunday study-room hours, but nearby residents worry about parking. In four or five sentences, plan a public discussion: name two perspectives, identify one useful source of evidence and its limitation, and propose a joint action and a fair way for officials to decide.

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two competing concerns, circle one source of evidence and its limitation, and number two actions the group plans to take together to trace how discussion becomes a plan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could fairly restating the store owner's concern help the group choose a shelter site?	**It keeps the delivery concern in the discussion, so the group can look for a site that protects sidewalk access without blocking deliveries.**
2	What do the boarding counts help the group understand, and what can they not show?	**They document use of the stop. They do not show where riders stand or how much space deliveries need.**
3	Why does the group ask the city transportation office to measure the sidewalk instead of relying on personal impressions?	**A measurement can help the group check whether a shelter layout meets accessibility requirements; impressions alone cannot settle that question.**
4	Compare one action taken by an individual or one group of stakeholders with a joint action. How could both help officials make a decision?	**Riders record waiting conditions, which gives officials evidence about riders' needs. The participants jointly request measurements, which could help officials compare both shelter sites against access and delivery needs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students who need quiet study space may support Sunday hours, while nearby residents may worry about parking. At an open meeting, I would ask each side to restate the other's concern before responding. The library could count Sunday visitors during a short trial, but those counts would not show how many cars park on nearby streets. Students and residents could jointly request parking observations during the trial. Library officials could hear public comments, compare the observations with access and cost information, and explain their decision in writing.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect a perspective or action to the decision. For Part 3, look for two perspectives, evidence with a stated limit, a joint action, and a decision process that considers public input.