Before the Vote

How thinking shapes decisions and relationships

PS.5.1 "Explain how attitudes, biases, and beliefs affect behavior and relationships with others."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three attitudes, beliefs, or assumptions in the passage, circle a behavior each one shaped, and give each linked pair the same number.

A Later Hour at the Library

1 At a town youth council meeting, members debated whether the public library should stay open one hour later on Thursdays. Several students said their buses arrived after the library closed, so they could not use its computers to finish assignments. Council member Elena believed public services should be available to residents with different schedules. She asked the students about their bus routes and proposed a trial of later hours. Her belief shaped a specific action: she gathered information before asking for a change. The students kept sharing their experiences because they felt their concerns were being taken seriously.

2 Another member, Marcus, assumed that teens who came to the library in the evening would be noisy. He had not asked evening visitors or library staff about their behavior. When a student suggested a quiet study area, Marcus interrupted and said the plan would probably cause trouble. His assumption was a bias because he judged a group without evidence about these particular students. Two students stopped speaking, and the discussion lost useful ideas. A librarian then reported that students at the library's existing after-school study sessions usually followed the noise rules. Marcus apologized and invited the students to explain their plan.

3 Council member Priya liked solving problems through discussion, but she also believed the library's budget should be considered before any vote. She asked the librarian how many staff members a trial would require, then suggested testing later hours for four Thursdays. Her cautious attitude did not mean she opposed the students. By explaining her concern and listening to their replies, she kept the conversation open. The council voted to recommend a trial, not a permanent change. The meeting showed that beliefs can guide choices, while an untested bias can silence others until someone challenges it with evidence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Elena's belief about public services shape her actions and affect the students' willingness to speak?

2. How did Marcus's bias affect his behavior and the council's discussion?

3. What evidence challenged Marcus's assumption, and how did his behavior toward the students change?

4. Why did Priya's concern about the budget not end the discussion with the students?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a school club decision that is not about library hours. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe one member's belief and another member's untested assumption, explain how each shapes behavior and relationships, and show one action that could repair harm.

Before the Vote

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three attitudes, beliefs, or assumptions in the passage, circle a behavior each one shaped, and give each linked pair the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Elena's belief about public services shape her actions and affect the students' willingness to speak?	**Elena asked about bus routes and proposed a trial of later hours. The students kept sharing because they felt she took their concerns seriously.**
2	How did Marcus's bias affect his behavior and the council's discussion?	**Marcus assumed evening teen visitors would be noisy, so he interrupted a student and predicted trouble. Two students stopped speaking, and the council lost their ideas.**
3	What evidence challenged Marcus's assumption, and how did his behavior toward the students change?	**The librarian said students at existing after-school sessions usually followed the noise rules. Marcus apologized and invited the students to explain their plan.**
4	Why did Priya's concern about the budget not end the discussion with the students?	**Priya asked about staffing, explained her concern, and listened to replies. She suggested a four-Thursday trial rather than rejecting the students' request.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The art club must choose a theme for a hallway mural. Rosa believes everyone should help decide, so she invites new members to share ideas, and they feel included. Devin assumes first-year students cannot paint carefully, so he ignores their sketches, and they stop offering ideas. Rosa asks Devin to look at a first-year member's finished work instead of guessing about skill. Devin apologizes and invites the new members to help plan the mural.

Accept answers that accurately connect a stated belief, attitude, or bias to a specific action and its effect on others. For the open task, the repair action should address the harm caused by the untested assumption.