When Heat Hits

Weighing actions and evidence during a city heat wave

USG.P.1.1.C "Gather and evaluate information regarding complex problems, assessing individual and collective actions taken to address them."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action people took, circle information that could help you judge an action, and number the limits of that information.

A Cooler Place, but for Whom?

(1) In the fictional city of Brookview, a five-day heat wave turned top-floor apartments into dangerous places. Many residents could not afford air-conditioning, and some bus stops had no shade. On the second day, the city opened a free cooling room at the library from noon to 6 p.m. A neighborhood group offered rides, while residents checked on neighbors and shared drinking water. These actions addressed different barriers: a place to cool down, a way to reach it, and help finding people who might need assistance. Yet none could make every apartment safe after the library closed.

(2) To judge these efforts, the city reported 78 entries to the cooling room over three days. An entry was counted each time someone came in, so the total might include repeat visitors. The neighborhood group recorded 19 rides, but its log did not say how many different people it drove. A student newspaper spoke with 12 residents waiting at one bus stop; five said the library closed before they got off work. The city report and ride log show that people used the services. The interviews reveal an obstacle, but people at one bus stop cannot represent the whole city.

(3) A local clinic recorded 31 heat-related visits during the heat wave, but it did not record whether those patients had used the cooling room. Its count shows a need for protection, not whether the room prevented illness. The city council is weighing longer library hours and more evening buses. Those steps could help workers who miss the current hours, but extra staff and bus service cost money. To judge what should happen next, residents and officials must consider the counts and interviews together, note what each cannot prove, and ask whose needs remain unmet.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How well did the city's cooling room address the heat problem? Use one detail that shows its value and one that shows its limit.

2. What does the neighborhood group's ride log show about its action, and what important question does the log leave unanswered?

3. The newspaper interviewed people at one bus stop. How should the city use their answers when deciding whether to extend library hours?

4. A council member says the clinic's 31 visits prove the cooling room failed. Is that conclusion supported? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose a new action Brookview has not tried to reduce heat risk at home after 6 p.m. In four or five sentences, explain who would carry it out, name two types of information you would gather to judge its effect, and describe one limit of that information.

ANSWER KEY

When Heat Hits

HIGH SCHOOL · USG.P.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action people took, circle information that could help you judge an action, and number the limits of that information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How well did the city's cooling room address the heat problem? Use one detail that shows its value and one that shows its limit.	**The room gave people a free place to cool down, and the city recorded 78 entries. It closed at 6 p.m., which kept some workers from using it.**
2	What does the neighborhood group's ride log show about its action, and what important question does the log leave unanswered?	**The group provided 19 rides. The log does not show how many different people received rides or who still needed transportation.**
3	The newspaper interviewed people at one bus stop. How should the city use their answers when deciding whether to extend library hours?	**The answers identify closing time as an obstacle for five of the 12 people interviewed. The city should investigate further because one bus stop does not represent all residents.**
4	A council member says the clinic's 31 visits prove the cooling room failed. Is that conclusion supported? Explain.	**No. The clinic did not record whether patients used the cooling room, and its count cannot show how many illnesses the room may have prevented.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city could lend portable air conditioners to residents in the hottest top-floor apartments. Staff could record how many units they deliver and which buildings receive them. Residents could also report their indoor temperatures before and after receiving a unit. Delivery records would not show whether people used the units during hot nights. Temperature reports from volunteers might miss residents the city could not reach.

Accept other passage-supported judgments that distinguish evidence of service use from evidence of reduced illness. For the open task, accept any new, plausible action with two relevant sources of information and a specific limit.