The Sunday Decision

Weigh perspectives and evidence in a public decision.

USH.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 different concerns about the library, circle one limit on the group's evidence, and number two steps people use to make or review a public decision.

Should the Library Open on Sundays?

1. Imagine a town whose public library closes on Sundays. Students who share computers at home want a quiet place to work before Monday, while some library employees worry that an added shift would leave less time for family. Nearby shop owners think Sunday visitors might help business. The town council has money for either limited Sunday hours or replacing worn computers, not both. A student group proposes opening the library for four hours on Sundays. Rather than call opponents selfish, the group asks employees what schedule would be workable and invites other residents to describe how they use the library.

2. Before the council meeting, the library director estimates that Sunday hours would require extra pay and utilities. A student poll finds strong support, but students handed it out only at their own school. Employees suggest rotating voluntary Sunday shifts; one employee notes that volunteers might not be available every week. A parent asks whether worn computers could be replaced first, since weekday users need them too. The group adds the director's cost estimate and the parent's concern to its presentation. It labels its poll as limited rather than calling it the town's opinion.

3. At the meeting, speakers take turns without interruptions and summarize a previous speaker's concern before responding. After public comments, the council votes to try four Sunday openings using funds set aside for library improvements, then review attendance, staff feedback, and costs before deciding whether to continue. Computer replacement is delayed, and council members explain that trade-off publicly. Some residents still disagree with the vote, but they can attend the review meeting and submit comments. A single student can speak or complete a survey; organized residents can also propose changes and hold officials accountable for the results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the students' and some employees' concerns differ? What suggested schedule might address both concerns, and what problem could it face?

2. Why can't the student poll stand for the whole town's opinion? Name one other group the students could ask.

3. Choose one rule speakers follow at the meeting. How could it help people discuss a disagreement fairly?

4. What trade-off did the council's vote make? Which two kinds of information could help the council decide whether to continue Sunday hours?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a real issue affecting people in your community outside school, other than library hours. In four or five sentences, describe two differing perspectives, one source of information and its limit, a civil discussion step, and an individual or group action that could lead to a fair public decision.

ANSWER KEY

The Sunday Decision

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two different concerns about the library, circle one limit on the group's evidence, and number two steps people use to make or review a public decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the students' and some employees' concerns differ? What suggested schedule might address both concerns, and what problem could it face?	**Students want Sunday access, while some employees worry about losing family time. Rotating voluntary shifts might help, but volunteers might not be available every week.**
2	Why can't the student poll stand for the whole town's opinion? Name one other group the students could ask.	**The students polled only people at their school. They could also ask library employees, parents, or other residents.**
3	Choose one rule speakers follow at the meeting. How could it help people discuss a disagreement fairly?	**Speakers summarize a previous concern before responding, which can help them address what the other person actually said.**
4	What trade-off did the council's vote make? Which two kinds of information could help the council decide whether to continue Sunday hours?	**The council delayed computer replacement to try Sunday openings. It could review any two of these: attendance, staff feedback, and costs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the crossing near my neighborhood bus stop, walkers want a longer crossing signal, while drivers worry about traffic delays. I would request the city's traffic counts, though a single weekday count might miss weekend conditions. At a public meeting, I would restate a driver's concern before explaining why walkers need more time. I could send my observations to the transportation office, and neighbors could ask the city council to consider a timed signal trial. The council could hear both groups before voting, then review crossing times and traffic delays.

For the open task, accept other specific community issues and reasonable information limits. The response should connect civil discussion and an individual or group action to a public decision.